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THE ORIGINAL MAGAZINE DEDICATED TO NEBRASKA ATHLETICS

# HUSKERS

ILLUSTRATED

## A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

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FIRST LOSS OF SEASON



Nov. 14, 2015

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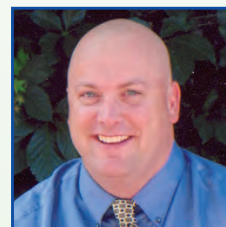
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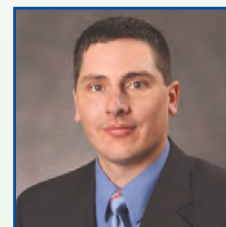
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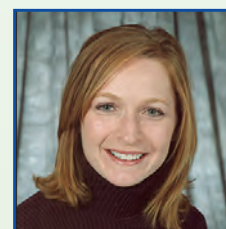
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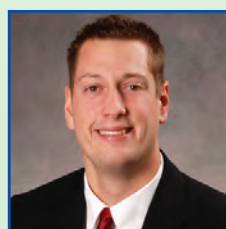
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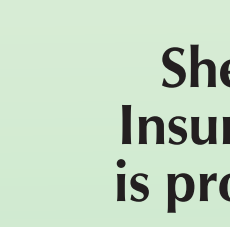
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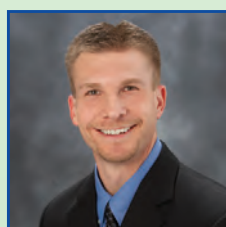
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# 2015 HUSKER FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Location	Results
Sat, Sep 05	BYU	Memorial Stadium	-
Sat, Sep 12	South Alabama	Memorial Stadium	-
Sat, Sep 19	Miami	at Miami, Fla.	-
Sat, Sep 26	Southern Miss	Memorial Stadium	-
Sat, Oct 03	Illinois*	at Champaign, Ill.	-
Sat, Oct 10	Wisconsin*	Memorial Stadium	-
Sat, Oct 17	Minnesota*	at Minneapolis, Minn.	-
Sat, Oct 24	Northwestern*	Memorial Stadium	-
Sat, Oct 31	Purdue*	at West Lafayette, Ind.	-
Sat, Nov 07	Michigan State*	Memorial Stadium	-
Sat, Nov 14	Rutgers*	at Piscataway, N.J.	-
Fri, Nov 27	Iowa*	Memorial Stadium	-
Sat, Dec. 05	Big Ten Championship*	at Indianapolis, Ind.	-

\*Conference Games

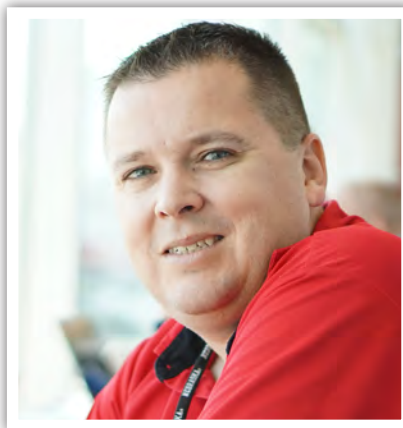


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## HUSKERS SHOW THEY ARE STILL CREATURES OF THE LINCOLN NIGHT

### Nebraska extends win streak to 17 in home night games



**THE SIGHT OF NEBRASKA'S ASSISTANT COACHES SPRINTING AND HOLLERING DOWN THE PRESSBOX HALLWAY AFTER SATURDAY'S 39-38 VICTORY OVER NO. 6 MICHIGAN STATE TO GET DOWN TO THE FIELD PRETTY MUCH SAID ALL THAT NEEDED TO BE SAID ABOUT THE FEELING OF ALL NEBRASKANS ON SATURDAY NIGHT.**

For the first time in what seems like forever things finally went Nebraska's way, even a late touchdown catch by Brandon Reilly that probably could have been called back survived an official review.

Even a pass by Michigan State quarterback Connor Cook that seemingly went out of bounds with :01 left on the clock didn't get a final review and the officials ruled time had expired with the Spartans sitting on the Nebraska 41-yard line and behind by one point on the Memorial Stadium scoreboard.

"We needed this one more than anything," Reilly said afterwards. "Words can not describe how I'm feeling right now, I am just excited it worked out the way it did."

The last time Michigan State left Memorial Stadium, they were dancing and celebrating in the locker room after wrapping up the Legends Division title in 2013.

This time it was Nebraska's players and coaches who were dancing around, celebrating the program's biggest victory since a 24-3 win over the same Spartans, who were ranked No. 9 in the AP and No. 11 in the BCS in 2011.

Going back even further, Nebraska last defeated a top-six opponent in 2001 when the Huskers earned a 20-10 win over No. 2 Oklahoma in Lincoln.

The Huskers seemed like they were headed to their seventh loss and third-straight defeat after the Spartans capped a 16-play, 75-yard drive that ate 8:50 off the fourth quarter clock with a one-yard touchdown run by Gerald Holmes to make it 38-26 with 4:16 left in the game.

An estimated 15,000 of the 90,094 fans headed for the exits at this point thinking that the Huskers had fought valiantly, but their defense wasn't strong enough to get the Huskers the ball back even if the offense could score.

Boy did they miss out on one of the greatest comebacks and upsets in school history.

Despite only being 4 1/2 underdogs according to the Las Vegas spreads, few gave the Huskers a chance, especially after arguably one of the worst losses in program history last week against Purdue.

Nebraska had some success running the ball, which opened up the passing game. Armstrong didn't look bothered by a turf toe injury as he scrambled and found open receivers.

"The win is certainly a sign of who we want to be and what we want to do," said Riley, who mostly wanted to stay in the moment. "It's just proof if you keep working, you can do good things. I think that every week, but particularly where we've been, the thing we talked about is there's no sense in playing this game unless you believe you can win."

Now that Nebraska has experienced winning and beating a top 10 team hopefully, its players and coaches can reserve such future celebrations for conference championships and even bigger games.

However, for this week, let the celebrating and partying continue.

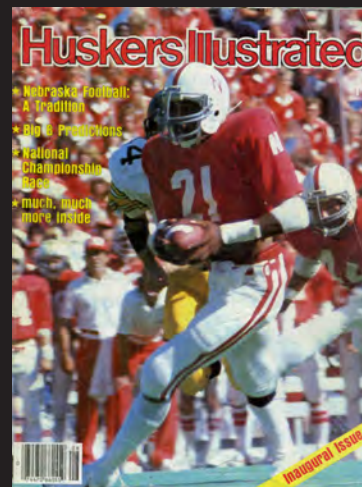
It certainly is a much better feeling than the alternative.

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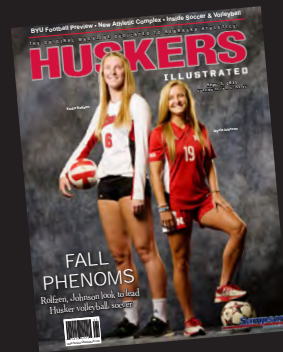
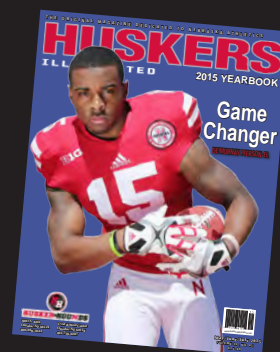
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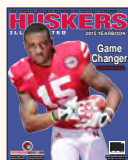
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**The next Huskers Illustrated edition, featuring the Men's and Women's basketball previews and Rutgers recap will mail Nov. 16.**



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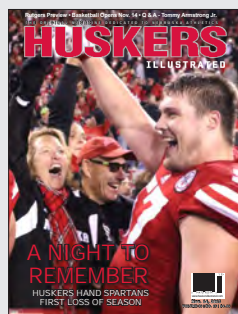
BY **LANNY HOLSTEIN**

Junior quarterback Tommy Armstrong Jr. came back from a turf toe injury that sidelined him at Purdue to lead the Huskers to an upset of Michigan State.

### 2015 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME	TV/SCORE
SEPT. 5	BYU	MEMORIAL STADIUM	2:30 P.M.	L, 33-28
SEPT. 12	SOUTH ALABAMA	MEMORIAL STADIUM	7 P.M.	W, 48-9
SEPT. 19	@MIAMI	MIAMI, FLORIDA	2:30 P.M.	L, 36-33 OT
SEPT. 26	SOUTHERN MISS	MEMORIAL STADIUM	11 A.M.	W, 36-28
OCT. 3	@ILLINOIS	CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS	2:30 P.M.	L, 14-13
OCT. 10	WISCONSIN	MEMORIAL STADIUM	2:30 P.M.	L, 23-21
OCT. 17	@MINNESOTA	MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA	2:30 P.M.	W, 48-25
OCT. 24	NORTHWESTERN	MEMORIAL STADIUM	11 A.M.	L, 30-28
OCT. 31	@PURDUE	WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA	11 A.M.	L, 55-45
NOV. 7	MICHIGAN STATE	MEMORIAL STADIUM	6 P.M.	W, 39-38
NOV. 14	@RUTGERS	PISCATAWAY, N.J.	2:30 P.M.	BTN
NOV. 27	IOWA	MEMORIAL STADIUM	TBA	TBA

ALL GAMES ARE CST



### ON THE COVER

Nebraska senior lineman Zach Sterup celebrates Nebraska's 39-38 victory over No. 6 Michigan State with his parents Doug and Mary Sterup of Hastings. It was NU's 17th-straight win under the lights at Memorial Stadium. After driving 91 yards in under a minute and then withstanding a late Michigan State drive, Husker players danced around, hugged one another and hugged fans and they let loose and took joy in actually winning a last-second game.

PHOTO BY MITCH OTTO/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED





# RECRUITING NOTEBOOK

BY MICHAEL SCHAEFER  
RECRUITING EDITOR  
HUSKERSILLUSTRATED.COM

## Husker recruits standing firm in commitment to NU

The most consistent question to come up throughout Nebraska's struggles this season as the team transitions from a previous coaching staff to a new one, is how does it affect recruiting.

Nebraska sits with a 15-member class that ranks No. 28 on the 247Sports Composite Team Rankings and No. 6 in the Big Ten. While neither ranking stands out on its own, NU does have a strong class average player, checking in at .8690 and still has quite a few more spots left to fill overall.

Don't expect a flurry of decommitments from the current class as they seem to have bought in despite the struggles for Mike Riley's staff. Nebraska's latest win over Michigan State is expected to help the team as well, considering Nebraska had nine visitors on campus for the exciting finish.

*HuskersIllustrated.com* reached out to all of Nebraska's commitments about their thoughts and if Nebraska's struggles changes anything for them in how they view the program, the staff and their own commitment.

Not everyone got back as its a busy time for some, but a good majority did. Players like JoJo Domann, John Raridon, Boe Wilson were quick to the point. They're solid. Nothing has changed and they're sticking with Nebraska.

A few other commits had some more thoughts on what Nebraska is going through.

Four-star quarterback commit Patrick O'Brien: "Things haven't changed at all. I have full trust in the staff and it's a



**Ben Stille, left, visits with Jack Stoll during the Northwestern game. Stille reiterated his commitment to the Huskers after the Michigan State game.**

transition season. I will sign my financial aid agreement in like a week.

"I understand Mike Riley didn't recruit any of the players there currently and we have been in every game with some good teams. The future is very bright but there will be a little rough patch before we get there."

Three-star linebacker Greg Simmons: "Nebraska's struggles doesn't change my commitment to them. Nebraska is my home."

Three-star athlete JD Spielman: "It's a process. It can be hard to coach a team full of players that were recruited and have the mind set of a different coach."

"Besides the (Purdue game) all of the games have been decided within a field goal worth of points. If we are able

to work out those minor kinks we could be a one or two loss team towards the top of the Big Ten West. It's unfortunate the way this season has been going but I still have faith in my future team that they will be able to turn things around."

Three-star defensive end Ben Stille: "How Nebraska performs on the field doesn't change my relationships I've made with the coaches or my commitment status. I have and always will be a Husker."

Three-star offensive lineman Bryan Brokop: "Not at all. It's a rough year, new coaches, new scheme. Give it a couple of years and we will be the same old Nebraska everyone loves and knows. I'm still 100 percent committed. That's where my loyalty lays."

Three-star defensive back DiCaprio Bootle: "The status

of my commitment has not changed. I am still all in with the Huskers and have not placed any doubt in my mind since I committed back in July. Despite early struggles I still feel as if the coaching staff is able to get the job done.

"The program is used to 9+ win seasons and though that is out of reach this year I believe Coach Riley and staff will be able to propel the Huskers toward even bigger and better things for the years to come. We have not been outright beaten all year. All the games have been close. We as a team have been our biggest opponents all year. It'll just take a little more time and once it gets rolling it's going to be a scary sight for opponents. And I myself am ready to be a part of that. #GBR." **N**



BY MICHAEL BRUNTZ

# STATE OF THE HUSKERS

## NU makes a positive impact on JUCO safety



*Read daily Husker reports from Michael Bruntz at HuskersIllustrated.com*  
*Follow him on Twitter @michaelbruntz*



MICHAEL BRUNTZ/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

**Markell Simmons, a 6-foot-1, 190-pound safety said Nebraska is in his top group after the Huskers' come-from-behind win over Michigan State. A visit to Utah in two weeks awaits Simmons, who will then make a decision and enroll in January.**

Nebraska, looking for immediate help at the safety position, put itself in a good position for Pima (Ariz.) CC safety Markell Simmons during his official visit.

How did the Huskers put themselves in a good position for Simmons? A number of factors.

"Coaches and academics," Simmons said. "I know both coaches are great. I know the academics at Nebraska are great, and if the academics at Utah don't match Nebraska, then it's Nebraska. If it does match, then we'll see. Academics is the main thing for me and Nebraska really helps its student athletes. They put a lot of work into them."

Simmons was in Lincoln for one of the more memorable Nebraska games in recent memory. He said the atmosphere and facilities stood out to him most on the visit.

"I was surprised by everything to be honest," Simmons said. "The fans really stood out to me. They love football, they're passionate. They're loyal – 90,000 is an awful lot of people for a game."

After the game, Simmons spent time with defensive coordinator Mark Banker, who talked with the junior college defensive back about where he could most help the Huskers.

Simmons said he would be comfortable in the quarters coverage Nebraska runs, and could contribute early.

"I talked to Coach Banker the most,"

Simmons said. "He sees me at free safety and they need help at free safety, so he was telling me that I could clearly see they need help."

Simmons, who is sitting out the season, said he is focused on making a decision and making sure he can leave junior college at semester.

"It's real tough," Simmons said of sitting out this season. "It's hard. I've still been working out with the team, I'm just focused on school right now, getting out early. I work out, sometimes do two a days, but it's going well. I'm just praying (about the decision). I try not to stress, just one day at a time. I feel like it will hit me."

He said he has begun hearing from TCU of late, and had been recruited by Oregon State, but that it's primarily a battle between Nebraska and Utah at this point.

More than 12 hours after Nebraska's big win, Simmons was still laughing about the atmosphere in Memorial Stadium. After Nebraska closed the win, Simmons and the other recruits were on the sidelines celebrating with Nebraska's players and coaches.

Simmons said the atmosphere definitely was the capper on a memorable visit to Lincoln.

"I usually don't get crazy and get hyped, but that game I did," Simmons said. "I've never been to a game like that before."





# 10 questions

with **Tommy Armstrong Jr.**

Story by Lanny Holstein • Photo by Jimmy Rash, Head Shot Courtesy of NU Media Relations

**Q: How was it watching the Purdue game from home and not being out there?**

A: “It was weird. It sucks to have that on an away game that I can’t support those guys, but it’s just about numbers and things, having to have people on certain situations, in case things happen, like myself happened.”

**Q: Were you in tune with what was going on out there from the TV broadcast?**

A: “It kind of sucked just sitting there watching. I kind of knew by formations and by plays and certain situations what was being called, things like that. So I kind of took mental notes about every single rep that we took on offense and what we had to fix and things like that.”

**Q: Who did you watch the game with?**

A: “I was alone actually. I watched it for a little bit and I was actually watching it and stemming my foot and icing it down. I just sat there and watched it and took mental notes. It was the only thing I could do, and just prop my foot up for a little bit, I enjoyed watching it. Learned a lot about it offensive-wise. What we need to fix, just seeing everything in one picture, happening at one time.”

**Q: Was it the coaches that decided you would stay home?**

A: “Honestly, I wasn’t even sure. I think it was all about numbers and being able to take guys. If it were my choice I would have come with the team, but I have to realize it’s all about numbers when it comes to traveling. It sucks not to be there, but you just have to realize that if I’m there and Ryker (Fyfe) gets hurt and A.J. (Bush) has to go in, then there’s no other quarterback there if something happens.”

**Q: How did you think Ryker Fyfe did in your absence?**

A: “I think he did well. I gave him a little bit of time to take everything in. I didn’t want to stress him over trying to talk about it. I know how it was after my first start and struggling over at Purdue, throwing four interceptions two years ago, when me and Ron (Kellogg) went to Purdue and had to play them.”

**Q: What were his issues on the four interceptions?**

A: “He did great at some times, but I think what got him was seeing all of those guys in the box and some dropping out and some rushing and some rushing from certain areas. They gave him a lot of looks. His head was probably spinning a lot like mine was two years ago.”

**Q: You are back now, but turf toe is known to linger. How are you feeling?**

A: “It’s tough. It’s just more of playing on your foot. You get a little tension as you play on the ball of your foot or on that toe and trying to bend it. It’s more of just treating it, like I said before. It’s like jamming a finger or something like that, where you can’t really bend that finger because you aggravated that joint and that’s how it is with your big toe.”

**Q: How much is it still impacting you?**

A: “You really need your big toe when it comes to doing anything, to planting, to running and things like that. Like I said before, I’m just trying to rehab as much as I can. I feel comfortable playing. I just need to make sure that I’m smart about how much I practice... as far as workload on my foot so I’ve just got to make sure I’m smart about it.”

**Q: What did you say to De’Mornay Pierson-El, one of your top weapons, after his injury?**

A: “I actually texted him because I knew he was going straight to the locker room and I texted him and talked to him for a little bit. It was sad not being able to be there for him. It kinda sucks for him, but it’s a learning experience for him. He’s young, but at the same time, he’s a warrior. I told him, when I texted him, I just said, ‘Be as strong as you can be. I know you’ve dealt with injuries in the beginning of the year. You just got over the hill to coming back, to playing more, to making plays and now you have to deal with this.’ I’m always in the training room with him now, just laughing with him and joking around.”

**Q: How tough has it been to stay positive throughout this season?**

A: “I’m fine. I don’t let it bother me. I’ve been in tougher situations than this. I’m fine. I’m going to drive on. I play for my team and coaches. I don’t play for anyone else but them. I play for my family. That’s about it. That’s my whole mindset. Those guys are my family. What they think matters. I don’t let any other outside force drive me to play how I am and affect how I play.”









Stanley Morgan celebrate's Nebraska 39-38 victory over Michigan State.

# Sparty Spoilers

## Huskers end Michigan State's unbeaten season

Story by Lanny Holstein • Photos by Ken Juszynski & Jimmy Rash

There were moments Saturday in Nebraska's thrilling 39-38 win over BCS No. 7 Michigan State where fans were again left scratching their heads from coaching decisions and botched execution, but when it came down to it, Nebraska came up aces.

Needing a stop down 38-33 with 1:46 to go in the game and just two timeouts, Nebraska's defense held the Spartans to just two yards on three-straight rushes. It saved 55 seconds for its offense to mount a game-winning touchdown drive.

"You look to the guy to the right and you look to the guy to the left, and nothing needs to be said," linebacker Josh Banderas said of how his unit approached that possession. "You know what needs to be done."

With only 55 seconds to work with and nary a timeout at its aid the Husker offense went to work from its own nine-yard line. Nebraska's staff noticed a glitch in the Spartan prevent defense on film, and quickly gashed it by running the same play three times in a row to move to the MSU 30.

"We kind of had a good idea of how they would play it from a couple other games where they were in the same situation, and we felt like we had a really good play with Westy (Jordan Wester-

kamp)," offensive coordinator Danny Langsdorf said. "We formationed it to get Westy in the slot and run that thin post that we had. The tight end held that linebacker player in the middle of the field, and we just threw it in behind him."

Quarterback Tommy Armstrong threw complete on the play to Westerkamp for gains of 28 and 33 yards before nearly throwing an interception in the back of the end zone. That was the signal to switch things up.

"We hit three of them and went right down the field on them, and then we wanted to go to Brandon (Reilly) one-on-one," Langsdorf said. "We got what we wanted there. He got kind of pushed out and then came back in and made the play. It was a heck of a play."

Reilly beat his man down the sideline and came back to the inside for the ball as the defensive back fell to the turf. The receiver stepped out of bounds before coming back in to get the ball, but a booth review confirmed that he was pushed out, and the touchdown counted.

"He did a nice job of just kind of nodding the guy and running by him," Langsdorf said of Reilly. "I think that's what got him on the last play to have to get collisioned out. I think he just stuttered





him and was collisioned. That's where he stepped out and came back in."

The score put Nebraska up 39-38 after a missed 2-point conversion try, and a botched squib kick gave Michigan State a chance to rally for a game-winning field goal in the final 14 seconds, but Connor Cook's final pass sailed out of bounds as the clock struck zero.

Nebraska coaches and players stormed the field in jubilation and even those in the press box ran through the hallways shouting with glee.

"I'm really thrilled for these players and our coaching staff," coach Mike Riley said afterward. "I think that besides winning the game, which is the key to everything, I suppose, I just think the fact that everybody, the coaches, the players kept working so we could get to this point and win this game."

It was a much needed win for a now 4-6 team that still has a lot to improve on. It was the kind of game that could be seen as a turning point if all goes well with this team down the road.

"When you go through a stretch like we have, one of the things that you fear the most is that people lose hope, stop working, kind of start losing that identity," Riley said. "From the minute that I started getting to be around these guys, I liked this team and our coaches have continued to work, and it's paid off in just an effort that went right down to the wire and didn't look good a number of times, but they never quit."



Left: Jonathon Rose returns an interception. Above: Josh Kalu dives to try and break up a pass attempt by Connor Cook.



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Imani Cross dives into the endzone for a touchdown against Michigan State.

# Cross provides a consistent running threat

STORY BY TERRY DOUGLASS | PHOTO BY JAKE CRANDALL

**A**lthough he fell just shy of reaching the 100-yard mark, I-back Imani Cross helped give Nebraska the consistent ground attack it had been missing during a two-game losing streak that ended with the Cornhuskers' 39-38 victory over Michigan State.

Cross said it felt great to earn the starting nod and he was thankful for the opportunity.

"The offensive line did a great job blocking up front and getting to the second level, as well," Cross said. "Our receivers did a great job blocking. Coach (Danny) Langsdorf did a great job calling the calls. It was a total team effort. It was awesome."

Nebraska quarterback Tommy Arm-

strong Jr. said Cross played well.

"He runs hard," Armstrong said. "Imani is one of the great leaders from the backs and he's just looking for an opportunity, and he got opportunity today."

Replacing the injured Terrell Newby in the starting lineup at I-back, Cross recorded season highs in attempts (18) and rushing yards (98) as Nebraska was able to mount an effective running game against the Spartans with 143 yards, averaging 4.2 yards per carry. That was an impressive feat, considering Michigan State entered the game ranked 19th in the country in rushing defense, permitting 115.5 yards per game.

"Against this defense, I was really excited about how we were running the football," Nebraska head coach Mike Riley said. "I think that really gave us a chance to win the

ball game doing that. (Michigan State) has some really good people up front."

Langsdorf said Nebraska basically used three main running plays, referring to them as a stretch run, zone divide and inside zone. He said the Huskers' early success on the ground allowed them to stay with the running game most of the way.

"The line was very good," Langsdorf said. "I thought we went right at them, especially early. We did a nice job of covering them up and we moved the pile and created some holes. I thought we played physical."

Armstrong agreed.

"They had a sense of urgency (and) they had a different attitude out there," Armstrong said of Nebraska's offensive line. "They were mean today. They (weren't) taking any BS from anybody."





Kevin Maurice brings down Michigan State quarterback Connor Cook during Saturday night's victory.

## Defense comes up with key stops against Spartans

STORY BY TERRY DOUGLASS | PHOTO BY JIMMY RASH

**E**rasing memories of past failures was crucial for Nebraska's defense during its 39-38 upset victory over Michigan State.

In a season where the Blackshirts have struggled mightily in late-game situations, they stopped the Spartans on each of their final two possessions. To accomplish that, defensive coordinator Mark Banker said the Cornhuskers had to eliminate self-doubt.

"They put themselves in the moment and concentrated on what they had to," Banker said. "Otherwise, if they're thinking about all that (stuff) and letting that stuff get into them, then that's cancer (and) that's decay. That's just not productive."

Ultimately, Banker said that believing they could get the job done was all that

mattered for the Huskers. The fact that they allowed Michigan State to gain 491 yards, including 348 yards passing, was immaterial.

Nebraska was able to stop the Spartans on their final two drives after they had produced six scores in a seven-possession span, including five touchdowns.

"The biggest thing is that I just feel so good for the players, emotionally – the mental part of it," Banker said. "Winning is the cure to everything. We'll worry about all the details later on."

Trailing 38-33 with 1:47 to play, the Blackshirts produced a three-and-out possession, forcing the Spartans to punt. That set the stage for Nebraska to drive 91 yards on four plays in 38 seconds, scoring the go-ahead TD on Tommy Armstrong Jr.'s 30-yard pass to Brandon Reilly with 17 seconds left.

But as has been the case several times this season, Nebraska's defense once again found itself needing to hang on. After a 17-yard kickoff return, Michigan State took over at its own 42-yard line with 14 seconds left and moved to the Huskers' 41 with seven seconds remaining on quarterback Connor Cook's 17-yard pass completion to wide receiver Macgarrett Kings Jr.

After a Spartans' timeout, NU's defense made its final winning stand, pressuring Cook and forcing him to move in the pocket.

By the time Cook's pass attempt to Josiah Price fell incomplete, time had expired.

"That was a great feeling," said Nebraska safety Nate Gerry, who recorded a team-high 14 tackles. "It was just one of those wins that we needed."



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# Husker Drive of the Game



Tommy Armstrong Jr. lets go of the game-winning pass to Brandon Reilly.

## A little bit of luck helps NU on scoring play

STORY BY SHANE G. GILSTER | PHOTOS BY JOE MIXAN

Finally!

Nebraska got luck to be on its side this time and helped in its game-winning drive against Michigan State.

NU took over at its nine-yard line with just 55 seconds left in the game. But before its first play, Michigan State called a timeout to get its defense set.

It didn't work as quarterback Tommy Armstrong Jr. threw a 28-yard strike to Jordan Westerkamp over the middle. Then Armstrong Jr. went back to Westerkamp again, this time on a 33-yarder to the Michigan State 30.

According to NU head coach Mike Riley, the first completion of the drive was critical.

"You need a big chunk play," Riley said. "You need something to get the momentum going, and you know what that play did is it puts the other team back on their heels, because all of a sudden, boy that ball's out by midfield and it becomes real and there's enough time. That's what I loved about that play."

You could feel the shift of momentum and attitude after those two catches by Westerkamp. Nebraska

was in striking distance at the Spartan 30-yard line and still had time with 23 seconds left to play.

After an incompletion to Taariq Allen that was almost intercepted in the endzone, Armstrong Jr. looked down the left sideline for Brandon Reilly. Reilly, who was out of bounds and then came back in, made the catch and fell into the end zone for the touchdown.

Officials reviewed the play to see if Reilly was forced out of bounds. If he wasn't, the touchdown would not stand, but after further review Nebraska received some lucky news when the call on the field was confirmed: TOUCHDOWN!

"We really thought initially it was going to be ruled out of bounds, so we were getting ready for another play from about the 30-yard line," said NU head coach Mike Riley.

"Then we were actually surprised when they signaled touchdown. I think they were actually reviewing whether or not he caught the ball in bounds but that didn't even appear to be close, so that was how it kind of came down."

### Breakdown – Play by Play

1-10 NEB 9: Tommy Armstrong pass complete to Jordan Westerkamp for 28 yards, 1st down

1-10 NEB 37: Tommy Armstrong pass complete to Jordan Westerkamp for 33 yards, 1st down

1-10 MSU 30: Tommy Armstrong Jr. incomplete pass to Taariq Allen

2-10 MSU 30: Tommy Armstrong Jr. pass complete to Brandon Reilly for 30 yards, 1st down, touchdown

1-G MSU 03: Tommy Armstrong Jr. two-point conversion failed

### Drive Stats

Drive started on the NU 9-yard line

0:55 left in the 4th quarter

4 plays, 91 yards, 41 seconds

0 rushing plays, 4 passing plays

0 yards rushing, 91 yards passing, 3 first downs

### Player of the Drive

Tommy Armstrong Jr. conducted the final drive with pinpoint passing and veteran time management. He found Jordan Westerkamp on two nice plays over the middle and hit Brandon Reilly along the sideline for the game winning touchdown.

### Play of the Drive

This one is easy. Tommy Armstrong Jr. just threw it up along the sideline and Reilly, who the officials said was forced out of bounds, came back in behind the MSU cornerback, made the catch and fell into the end zone for the game winning score.

"It was just a basic four verticals play," Reilly said. "A lot of it just man to man and I kind of had a feeling Tommy would come my way. "I saw the ball and had to make a little adjustment but I'm glad it worked out the way it did because we've been on the wrong side of it too many times this year."



# Nebraska 39, Michigan State 38

Nov. 7, 2015 at Memorial Stadium in Lincoln

Attendance: 94,094

Score by Quarters	1	2	3	4	Total
Michigan State	3	14	14	7	38
Nebraska	10	3	7	19	39

Qtr	Time	Scoring Play	V-H
1st	07:10	NEB - Brown, Drew 44 yd field goal, 9-38 4:01	0 - 3
	02:07	NEB - Westerkamp, J. 38 yd pass from Armstrong Jr. (Brown, Drew kick), 7-80 3:28	0 - 10
	00:30	MSU - Geiger, Michael 46 yd field goal, 5-42 1:33	3 - 10
2nd	11:35	MSU - Kings, M. 34 yd pass from Cook, Connor (Geiger, Michael kick), 6-57 2:44	10 - 10
	04:21	NEB - Brown, Drew 43 yd field goal, 8-35 3:04	10 - 13
	00:17	MSU - Kings, M. 18 yd pass from Cook, Connor (Geiger, Michael kick), 10-75 4:04	17 - 13
3rd	12:31	NEB - Cross, Imani 1 yd run (Brown, Drew kick), 6-69 2:26	17 - 20
	09:13	MSU - Burbridge, A. 33 yd pass from Cook, Connor (Geiger, Michael kick), 6-84 3:13	24 - 20
	02:14	MSU - Lyles, Jamal 16 yd pass from Cook, Connor (Geiger, Michael kick), 10-83 4:19	31 - 20
4th	13:06	NEB - Armstrong Jr. 2 yd run (Armstrong Jr. pass failed), 10-65 4:08	31 - 26
	04:16	MSU - Holmes, Gerald 1 yd run (Geiger, Michael kick), 16-75 8:50	38 - 26
	01:47	NEB - Armstrong Jr. 1 yd run (Brown, Drew kick), 10-53 2:23	38 - 33
	00:17	NEB - Reilly, Brandon 30 yd pass from Armstrong Jr. (Armstrong Jr. pass failed), 4-91 0:38	38 - 39



Brandon Reilly comes back in from out of bounds to make the game-winning 30-yard catch.





MICHAEL SPOMER/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

Brandon Reilly dives across the goal line for the game-winning touchdown.



MICHAEL SPOMER/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

Brandon Reilly slides across the goal line with 17 seconds remaining.



MICHAEL SPOMER/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

Brandon Reilly celebrates the game-winning touchdown catch.

## Team Statistics

	MSU	NEB
<b>FIRST DOWNS</b>	25	24
Rushing	5	11
Passing	17	12
Penalty	3	1
<b>NET YARDS RUSHING</b>	143	179
Rushing Attempts	34	36
Average Per Rush	4.2	5.0
Rushing Touchdowns	1	3
Yards Gained Rushing	153	190
Yards Lost Rushing	10	11
<b>NET YARDS PASSING</b>	348	320
Completions-Attempts-Int	24-39-1	19-33-2
Average Per Attempt	8.9	9.7
Average Per Completion	14.5	16.8
Passing Touchdowns	4	2
<b>TOTAL OFFENSE YARDS</b>	491	499
Total offense plays	73	69
Average Gain Per Play	6.7	7.2
Fumbles: Number-Lost	1-0	0-0
Penalties: Number-Yards	8-76	5-55
<b>PUNTS-YARDS</b>	3-135	2-70
Average Yards Per Punt	45.0	35.0
Net Yards Per Punt	38.3	30.5
Inside 20	1	0
50+ Yards	1	1
Touchbacks	1	0
Fair catch	1	0
<b>KICKOFFS-YARDS</b>	7-375	7-412
Average Yards Per Kickoff	53.6	58.9
Net Yards Per Kickoff	36.0	38.7
Touchbacks	0	3
Punt returns: Number-Yards-TD	1-9-0	0-0-0
Average Per Return	9.0	0.0
Kickoff returns: Number-Yds-TD	4-66-0	5-123-0
Average Per Return	16.5	24.6
Interceptions: Number-Yds-TD	2-31-0	1-12-0
Fumble Returns: Number-Yds-TD	0-0-0	0-0-0
Miscellaneous Yards	0	0
Possession Time	32:25	27:35
1st Quarter	6:04	8:56
2nd Quarter	8:45	6:15
3rd Quarter	7:37	7:23
4th Quarter	9:59	5:01
Third-Down Conversions	8 of 14	6 of 12
Fourth-Down Conversions	1 of 2	1 of 1
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	3-3	3-4
Touchdowns	3-3	3-4
Field goals	0-3	0-4
Sacks By: Number-Yards	0-0	0-0
PAT Kicks	5-5	3-3
Field Goals	1-1	2-2
Points off turnovers	7	3





Above: Stanley Morgan makes a catch against Michigan State. Left: Fullback Andy Janovich dives forward on one of his four carries for 26 yards.

## Individual Statistics

### Michigan State

Rushing	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
Holmes, Gerald	22	119	2	117	1	43	5.3
Shelton, R.J.	2	12	2	10	0	12	5.0
Cook, Connor	4	11	4	7	0	4	1.8
Scott, LJ	3	7	2	5	0	5	1.7
Terry, Damion	1	3	0	3	0	3	3.0
Williams, D.	1	1	0	1	0	1	1.0
Lyles, Jamal	1	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Totals	34	153	10	143	1	43	4.2

Passing	C-A-I	Yds	TD	Long	Sack
Cook, Connor	23-37-1	335	4	34	0
Terry, Damion	1-2-0	13	0	13	0
Totals	24-39-1	348	4	34	0

Receiving	No.	Yards	TD	Long
Burbridge, A.	10	164	1	33
Kings, M.	4	97	2	34
Shelton, R.J.	4	41	0	23
Price, Josiah	2	21	0	16
Pendleton, T.	2	8	0	5
Lyles, Jamal	1	16	1	16
Holmes, Gerald	1	1	0	1
Totals	24	348	4	34

Punting	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	In20	TB
Hartbarger, J.	3	135	45.0	60	1	1
Totals	3	135	45.0	60	1	1

Returns	Punt			Kickoff			Intercept		
	No	Yds	Lg	No	Yds	Lg	No	Yds	Lg
Kings, M.	1	9	9	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shelton, R.J.	0	0	0	2	33	33	0	0	0
Cox, Demetrious	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	14	14
Nicholson, M.	0	0	0	1	17	17	0	0	0
Bullough, Riley	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	17	17
Williams, D.	0	0	0	1	16	16	0	0	0
Totals	1	9	9	4	66	33	2	31	17

Field goals	Qtr	Time	Dist	Result
Geiger, Michael	1st	00:30	46 yards	Good

Kickoffs	No.	Yards	Avg	TB	OB
Cronin, Kevin	7	375	53.6	0	1

All-purpose	Run	Rcv	KR	PR	IR	Total
Burbridge, A.	0	164	0	0	0	164
Holmes, Gerald	117	1	0	0	0	118
Kings, M.	0	97	0	9	0	106
Shelton, R.J.	10	41	33	0	0	84

### Nebraska

Rushing	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
Cross, Imani	18	101	3	98	1	21	5.4
Janovich, Andy	4	26	0	26	0	12	6.5
Armstrong Jr.	7	25	6	19	2	17	2.7
Reilly, Brandon	1	17	0	17	0	17	17.0
Moore, Alonzo	1	13	0	13	0	13	13.0
Newby, Terrell	4	8	0	8	0	6	2.0
TEAM	1	0	2	-2	0	0	-2.0
Totals	36	190	11	179	3	21	5.0

Passing	C-A-I	Yds	TD	Long	Sack
Armstrong Jr.	19-33-2	320	2	43	0
Totals	19-33-2	320	2	43	0

Receiving	No.	Yards	TD	Long
Westerkamp, J.	9	143	1	38
Reilly, Brandon	3	87	1	35
Moore, Alonzo	3	65	0	43
Morgan Jr., S.	3	27	0	14
Allen, Taariq	1	-2	0	0
Totals	19	320	2	43

Punting	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	In20	TB
Foltz, Sam	2	70	35.0	51	0	0
Totals	2	70	35.0	51	0	0

Returns	Punt			Kickoff			Intercept		
	No	Yds	Lg	No	Yds	Lg	No	Yds	Lg
Morgan Jr., S.	0	0	0	3	89	34	0	0	0
Rose, Jonathan	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	12	12
Nelson, Jordan	0	0	0	1	12	12	0	0	0
Janovich, Andy	0	0	0	1	22	22	0	0	0
Totals	0	0	0	5	123	34	1	12	12

Field goals	Qtr	Time	Dist	Result
Brown, Drew	1st	07:10	44 yards	Good
Brown, Drew	2nd	04:21	43 yards	Good

Kickoffs	No.	Yards	Avg	TB	OB
Brown, Drew	7	412	58.9	3	0

All-purpose	Run	Rcv	KR	PR	IR	Total
Westerkamp, J.	0	143	0	0	0	143
Morgan Jr., S.	0	27	89	0	0	116
Reilly, Brandon	17	87	0	0	0	104
Cross, Imani	98	0	0	0	0	98





Above: Marcus Newby (3) helps bring down Michigan State's Gerald Holmes. Left: Nate Gerry and Vincent Valentine celebrate a stop.

## Defensive Statistics

#	Michigan State	Solo	Ast	Total	Sacks-Yds	TFL-Yds	FF	FR-Yds	Int-Yds	BrUp	Blks	QBH
45	Harris, Darien	10	3	13	-	2-4	-	-	-	-	-	1
33	Reschke, J.	2	4	6	-	2-2	-	-	-	-	-	-
9	Nicholson, M.	1	5	6	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
7	Cox, Demetrious	3	2	5	-	1-3	-	-	1-14	-	-	-
30	Bullough, Riley	0	5	5	-	-	-	-	1-17	-	-	-
44	Miller, Grayson	3	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
39	Edmondson, J.	3	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
72	Evans, Craig	1	3	4	-	2-5	-	-	-	-	-	-
36	Colquhoun, A.	3	0	3	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
93	Knox, Damon	1	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
23	Frey, Chris	1	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
92	Heath, Joel	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	Smith, Tyson	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
99	Cronin, Kevin	0	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	McDowell, M.	0	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
49	Jones, Shane	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
85	Kings, M.	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	Morrissey, Matt	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8J	Jones, Evan	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	Thomas, L.	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals		33	36	69	0.0-0	7-14	0	0-0	2-31	4	0	1

#	Nebraska	Solo	Ast	Total	Sacks-Yds	TFL-Yds	FF	FR-Yds	Int-Yds	BrUp	Blks	QBH
25	Gerry, Nate	9	5	14	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
52	Banderas, Josh	2	8	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1B	Kalu, Joshua	4	4	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	Newby, Marcus	2	6	8	-	1-1	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	Young, Dedrick	1	5	6	-	1-1	-	-	-	-	-	-
28	Cockrell, B.	4	0	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
14	Rose, Jonathan	2	2	4	-	-	-	-	1-12	1	-	-
55	Maurice, Kevin	1	3	4	-	1-1	-	-	-	-	-	-
8A	Jones, Chris	3	0	3	-	1-2	-	-	-	1	-	-
1A	Rose-Ivey, M.	2	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
95	Gangwish, Jack	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
49	Weber, Chris	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
90	McMullen, Greg	0	2	2	-	1-1	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	Collins, Maliek	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
91	Akinmoladun, F.	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
43	Ferguson, Tyrin	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
56	Simpson, Brad	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
98	Valentine, V.	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2B	Taylor, Adam	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
41	McNitt, Luke	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	Janovich, Andy	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals		36	42	78	0.0-0	5-6	0	0-0	1-12	4	0	0



**RUSHING OFFENSE:** It wasn't always pretty, but it sure looked effective for Nebraska against a stout front seven for Michigan State. The Huskers ran right at the Spartans on Saturday, using Imani Cross and Andy Janovich as battering rams and as a team finished with 179 yards rushing. Cross ran hard all game and finished with 98 yards on 18 carries, including a touchdown. Nebraska also effectively hit Michigan State with a few fullback traps and Janovich finished with 26 yards. NU utilized the jetsweep to set up the inside run as both Alonzo Moore and Brandon Reilly found success on the outside. Quarterback Tommy Armstrong ran in a pair of touchdowns as well in the win. – *Michael Schaefer*

A

**PASSING OFFENSE:** Maybe this should be higher because the passing game plan was consistent and successful. Nebraska's success in the run allowed Armstrong to throw at Michigan State's corners without help and the quarterback was solid at taking shots down the field - including several key passes to Brandon Reilly. Additionally, Armstrong was cool and collected when he led Nebraska on the game-winning drive. It wasn't all perfect. There were a couple drops and of course two bad interceptions from Armstrong. One cost the team points and the other hurt field position. However, Armstrong bounced back and kept the Huskers playing hard throughout. – *Michael Schaefer*

B

**RUSHING DEFENSE:** We'll give credit to Nebraska here for bowing up when it mattered. The Huskers got a key fourth down stop in the first quarter, and then held Michigan State with less than two minutes remaining to get the ball back. Michigan State carried the ball 34 times for 143 yards and a touchdown as a team, with Gerald Holmes accounting for a good amount of that yardage (22 carries, 117 yards). The Huskers made nice adjustments to the Spartans' counter plays that found success early in the game. – *Michael Bruntz*

B

**PASSING DEFENSE:** Nebraska played with fire all night - no different than all season - in its passing defense. The Huskers couldn't get sustained pressure on Michigan State quarterback Connor Cook, and Michigan State's wide receivers were running free at times in the Nebraska secondary. Cook finished the game 23-for-37 for 335 yards and four touchdowns. Michigan State's receivers also made several tough, contested catches against Nebraska's defense. Nebraska did get a rare interception off Cook, but the blown coverages and head-scratching play continued into game No. 10 for the Huskers. – *Michael Bruntz*

D

**KICKING/SPECIAL TEAMS:** Once again, the kicking portion of the game was relatively solid. Drew Brown nailed field goals of 44 and 43 yards in the win. Nebraska definitely got a boost in its kickoff return game from freshman Stanley Morgan, who returned three kickoffs for 89 yards in the game and represents a big upgrade from what the Huskers had there earlier this season. Nebraska once again struggled to cover kickoffs, and Nebraska got a nice bonus in the kickoff return game — a 22-yard effort from fullback Andy Janovich. Nebraska nearly suffered from a gaffe at the end of the game, when Brown's squib kickoffs was caught by Michigan State's up-back, and returned to the Michigan State 42. – *Michael Bruntz*

C

## Quoting NU safety Nate Gerry on the postgame celebration:



**"That was one of those things that I'm gonna remember for a while. I've never really seen Memorial Stadium like that in my career before. It was pretty crazy. That was a great feeling. It was just one of those wins that we needed. We knew we were going to win this game just because of the attitude we had going into it."**

# Game Notes

## PARTY ON

As the clock hit double zeros and Michigan State quarterback Connor Cook's final pass flew out of bounds incomplete, Nebraska's sideline erupted in an outburst of emotions. Players and coaches rushed the field while others stood in disbelief after the 39-38 win over No. 6 MSU.

"It was a lot of relief from our guys," offensive coordinator Danny Langsdorf said. "I was very appreciative of the fans that stayed with us, and it was more of a celebration of them being there and cheering loud and our guys having a lot of close games that have gone the other way."

Within a few seconds of the game ending the song "Let Me Clear My Throat" blared over the stadium speakers intensifying the jubilation already taking place on the field. Players danced to the music, bobbing their heads and flailing their arms and legs to the beat.

"It was just a big party, just a big party with 90,000 people and I'm sure even some of the older crowd was getting into it," linebacker Josh Banderas said. "It was just nuts and a moment I will remember forever."

The party was a special one for an embattled team that improved to 4-6 with the win.

"Especially when it comes down to the end like that when we've had so many of those not go our way, it was a such a relief and a great feeling that have that happen for us," Banderas said.

## CROSSING THE GOAL LINE

Running back Imani Cross got the start Saturday with an ailing Terrell Newby not quite 100 percent, and the senior made the most of the opportunity. He ran for 98 yards on 18 carries.

"We just wanted to get some power runs," Langsdorf said. "We felt like we could just go right after them in the run game, and Imani gave us good, hard run and some toughness in there."

It wasn't just on the inside where Cross shined Saturday. He went for solid yardage outside the tackles as well.

"He hit a couple stretch runs really nice, and he's a patient runner which you need on some of those stretch runs," Langsdorf said. "He hit it hard and really creased a couple too that got us some big yards."

After trying Newby a bit early in the game, Nebraska went strictly with Cross. His style fit the game plan.

"He had a good week of prep, and we had some runs in that were his cup of tea, some hard zone runs that were downhill and some draws that I think he is good at along with the stretch runs," Langsdorf said. "I thought he was outstanding all day."

## POWER FOOTBALL

Langsdorf said he thought his unit played its most physical football of the year against Michigan State. That all started with the offensive line, according to the





Alonzo Moore (82), Adam Taylor (28), Nolan Graham (29) and Bo Kitrell (30) dance on the benches after NU's win.

coach.

"We moved the pile and created some holes," he said. "I thought they played physical. We moved Zach (Sterup) onto the inside and left (Nick) Gates at the tackle. I thought that helped us."

Sterup filled in for the injured Gates the previous two games after being beaten out in fall camp by the younger lineman. He played so well in replacement duty that the coaches felt he earned a chance someplace else, even if his 6-foot-8, 320-pound frame doesn't fit the usual mold at guard.

"It was just good to have that size and that power on the inside," Langsdorf said. "Add that to Imani running downhill, and I thought we did a nice job on that inside zone."

### SQUIB KICK MISCUE

Michigan State nearly attempted a game-winning field goal in the final seconds thanks to a short field. Nebraska kicker Drew Brown attempted a squib kick that only made it to the Spartan 25 before being returned 17 yards to the 42.

"I should have seen that the guys was on the

10 or the 15. I could have easily kicked it over his head, so that one is my fault," Brown said. "We'll review that. Obviously, it was not good because they took it to the 40-something yard line."

Brown said a last second audible in the way he kicks the ball is something he has the authority to do.

"It's not that they told me I can do that, but I should have just assumed when I saw them come out in that formation that I can just kick it over their head to kick it deep and make them go back and get it or let it just roll into the end zone," Brown said.



# Nebraska 39 Michigan State 38



KEN JUSZYK/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED



KEN JUSZYK/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

Clockwise from above: Marcus Newby and Josh Banderas stop Michigan State's Gerald Holmes. Jordan Westerkamp gets behind the Spartan defense for a 38-yard touchdown to put the Huskers up 10-0 in the first quarter. Andy Janovich drops his shoulder into Spartan kicker Andy Cronin on a kickoff return. Roommates Tommy Armstrong Jr. and Jordan Westerkamp celebrate. Imani Cross rushed for 98 yards. Kieron Williams lays out to try and block a punt from Michigan State's Jake Hartbarger.



JIMMY RASH/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED





KEN JUSZYK/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED



JOE MIXAN/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED



KEN JUSZYK/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED





KEN JUSZYK / HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

Bo Kittrell (30), Spencer Lindsay (95) and Tyler Hoppes run onto the field to celebrate after Nebraska's 39-38 victory.

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# Show of Support

Season-high crowd comes out for Michigan State

PHOTOS BY JIMMY RASH, MICHAEL SPOMER, MICHAEL SCHAEFER, MITCH OTTO



Jim Maddox, Kate Maddox, Michael Maddox and James Tracy traveled from Wichita, Kansas to watch the Huskers take on the Spartans.



Max Foltz of Greeley came to watch his cousin Sam Foltz.



Megan Peck and Brian Ziemer from Bellevue stop for a photo.



Mike and Diane Perkins from Atchison, Kansas pose for a photo before the game. Mike worked on the remodel of the West Stadium in 1994-95.



Former South Carolina head coach Steve Spurrier was in Lincoln on Saturday night to watch The "head ball coach" come as a special guest of Nebraska athletic director Shawn Eichorst. The two became friends when Eichorst worked for the South Carolina athletic department in the early 2000s. Spurrier had never seen a Nebraska home game.



Former Husker and current K.C. Royals baseball player Alex Gordon shoots Der Weiner Schlinger.





Clockwise from above left: Jake and Julie Fecht of Gothenburg, pose with their sons, Gunnar and Beau, in front of Memorial Stadium before the Michigan State game. Harry Gardner, who could easily be mistaken for Santa, and his wife Deborah, traveled from Gering to watch the Huskers take on the Spartans. Ben Vestrovski of Waverly and Jimmy Rash of Doniphan pose for a photo before the Michigan State game. Rebecca Patlan, Dave Bruck and others were on hand for Veterans Day.

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JIMMY RASH/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED



## Stories by Lanny Holstein and Darren Ivy

Nebraska's coaching staff liked Aaron Williams' intelligence from the very beginning.

In spring camp, when Mike Riley, Mark Banker and crew took over they were looking for players that could learn their schemes quickly and effectively.

It was a whole new ballgame for everyone involved, so adaptability and quick learning were key.

Williams jumped off the film at the safety spot. Sure, he was a true freshman, one of just four early enrollees, but he flashed potential beyond his years.

"He's doing a good job making plays," defensive backs coach Brian Stewart said of him back in the spring. "But basically, he's a smart kid. Good football instincts."

Banker likes to call those "FBI" or "football instincts", and they came in handy against Purdue, when Williams was called on for his first career start.

As the top backup behind the more experienced Nate Gerry and Byerson Cockrell, the freshman had been waiting his turn. A death in the family pulled Cockrell away from the team, and Williams stepped right in, making seven tackles including one for loss against the Boilermakers.

"It was a blast for me," Williams said. "It was like recess, you just go out there and have fun and enjoy it."

Banker praised the freshman for his work in the game, saying he "flashed". For Williams part, it wasn't a big deal being thrown in with the starters because he was prepared.

"I study a lot because I look at it as a job," he said. "When you are doing a job, you have to come prepared, focused, know what you do. It leads to trust with your coaches. They want you to be prepared so they can feel comfortable with you."

It's that same businesslike attitude that had Williams at No. 2 on the depth chart in the first place. There were other safeties in the program before he showed up, but graduating high school early gave him a chance to make a first impression in the spring at the same time the older players were trying to do the same with a new coaching staff.

"It helped me tremendously," Williams said. "It helped me learn the defense better, learn the game speed and get more comfortable with my teammates. I feel like the more comfortable you feel with your teammates, the more comfortable you will be on the field. You build chemistry."

It didn't take long for Williams to realize he might be building that chemistry quick enough to get on the field this season. He didn't have any illusions of playing right away, but it just kind of happened, he said.

"I just knew that when I came in I would have to compete and work hard to get some playing time," Williams said. "It occurred to me within a few practices though. It occurred to me when I kept putting in hard work and started to get better."

Some might look at it as a wasted year for Williams what with the team having one of its worst years in school history and everything, but is glad he didn't redshirt.

There's nothing like actually playing, according to the true freshman.

"I love it," he said. "This year has been a great experience for me to get some playing time. It got my feet wet, got me some college experience, got me used to the games, a lot of stuff."

## HIS TOP 5

# UPSETS BY HUSKERS IN SCHOOL HISTORY



KEN JUSZYK/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

First-year Nebraska coach Mike Riley has made a habit of upsetting higher ranked teams during his time at Oregon State, but Saturday's 39-38 win over No. 6 Michigan State was his first such victory at NU.

- 1** **OCT. 31, 1959**  
**Nebraska 25, No. 19 Oklahoma 21**
- 2** **SEPT. 17, 1977**  
**Nebraska 31, No. 4 Alabama 24**
- 3** **NOV. 7, 2015**  
**Nebraska 39, No. 6 Michigan State 38**
- 4** **SEPT. 17, 1960**  
**Nebraska 14, No. 4 Texas 13**
- 5** **OCT. 22, 1958**  
**Nebraska 14, No. 14 Pittsburgh 6**  
**NOV. 25, 1939**  
**Nebraska 13, No. 14 Oklahoma 7**

*The win marked only the third time in school history that an unranked Nebraska team upset a top-10 opponent. It was the first such upset in nearly 40 years dating back to Sept. 17, 1977, when unranked Nebraska knocked off No. 4 Alabama, 31-24. Although Oklahoma was only No. 19 in 1959, the Huskers' victory over the Sooners is often considered the greatest upset in school history since it broke a 74-game conference winning streak by the Sooners and ended a 16-year drought by the Huskers, who went on to finish 4-6 that season.*



## EICHORST SPEAKS

Speculation swirled about coach Mike Riley's job status following the 55-45 loss to Purdue a week ago. The noise got so loud that athletic director Shawn Eichorst felt it necessary to release a statement in support of the coach.

"While many are understandably disappointed in the current record of the football team and the heartbreakingly close losses we have suffered, I am confident the future is bright because I see it in the eyes of our players, coaches and staff and I am impressed by what I know is going on behind the scenes," Eichorst's statement read.

For his part, Riley said he was appreciative of the support, something Eichorst has publically lent him twice this season after refusing to do so for former coach Bo Pelini under what he referred to as his personal policy on public comment.

"Nothing about this surprises me," Riley said. "It doesn't surprise me that Shawn has stepped out because I know what must be going on like that. That is not news to me. It is like I said, people are going to react one way or the other."

Eichorst's statement itself incited another strong reaction from Husker fans. The athletic director referred to Riley's task this season as a "rebuild", and some took offense to that.

"Your support and patience as Mike Riley rebuilds our storied program one brick at a time mean the world to our young men, our staff and our university," the statement read.

Riley said he doesn't see it in quite the same fashion.

"I don't take jobs with that intention (rebuilding)," he said. "My goal in taking the job was to establish good football and a program that everybody could be proud of. That has always been my intention in this deal."

The coach did admit season one has been a failure.

"There is no doubt we have failed in the eyes of what everybody that wants to do that's a given," Riley said. "It is just another sign of how people do care and another reason I guess that it is important to know that everybody has got a vision of where it could go."

The approach going forward is twofold.

"We have to look immediate, what we want to do with our team today in practice and try to win the game this weekend," Riley said. "And then try to have those goals long term and then all the rest of it, whatever it is, whatever you call it rebuilding or renewing it's different obviously."

## DPE OUT FOR THE SEASON

Sophomore receiver De'Mornay Pierson-El is done for the season after "tearing up his knee and fracturing his leg" against Purdue, according to coach Mike Riley.

The 2014 breakout player injured the leg doing a celebration following fellow receiver Stanley Morgan's 20-yard touchdown catch in the second quarter.

"It's a bad deal," receivers coach Keith Williams said. "On a situation like that you just feel for the kid. You don't even think about the football aspect of it. You think about him, what he's gone through already this year. He's a great kid who loves the game, loves the University of Nebraska, so you feel for him immediately, and that's it."

Pierson-El already missed the first four games of the season recovering from a Jones Fracture in his foot.

That injury happened two weeks before the season in a noncontact situation.

When Morgan saw Pierson-El go down, the freshman took it pretty hard himself.

"Stan's a young kid and he's emotional," Williams said. "It came kind of off DPE celebrating his play, so you feel kind of indirectly responsible for a hurting himself celebrating something you did."

Williams pulled Morgan over to the side when he saw the young player's reaction.

"I didn't want him to feel like it was his fault in any way," the coach said.



**De'Mornay Pierson-El, who was on crutches, congratulates Brandon Reilly after the Michigan State victory.**

## TRUST STILL THERE

Nebraska's defense ranked No. 91 in the nation coming into the Michigan State game, allowing 424 yards per game to opposing offenses.

The numbers were a little better in the scoring department, where the unit was No. 75 in the nation, allowing 28 points per game, but defensive coordinator Mark Banker is still coming under fire in his first season in Lincoln.

The man who hired him, coach Mike Riley, defended him on Monday.

"In the football sense of it, I know his extensive defensive football background," Riley said. "I know more about the character and work that goes into it and the preparation that's done and the bases that are covered."

The trust Riley has in his defensive coordinator isn't shared right now by many Husker fans, in fact, it actually scares some because they think he might be attached to him.

"I've been with (Banker) through thick and thin," Riley said. "Good seasons and bad, top rated defenses and not so much. I know the consistency of work and the soundness that goes into how we teach and what we do. Now obviously those are words. You don't see it, but I know what's behind it all."



# Hometown Huskers

## Harrison Jordan looks to continue fullback momentum

Story by Lanny Holstein • Photo by Jimmy Rash

**TAKE A PEAK INSIDE** the Nebraska pregame locker room, and you'll find something a little different than most anywhere across the nation.

Sure, there are a bunch of muscular dudes strapping their pads on, applying tape and listening to music as they try to get psyched up for the game, but Nebraska's fullbacks take the pregame festivities to another level. Andy Janovich and Harrison Jordan like to spend part of their time before games literally knocking skulls – no helmet, forehead to forehead collisions are a regular routine, a practice the younger of the two road graders brought with him from his days at Omaha Westside High School.

"I started doing it in high school with my buddies just to get ready for games, and then I come down here and become really good friends with Jano," Jordan said. "We just do it because we have the same mindset with stuff like that. It just gets us woken up a little bit before games and ready to hit people."

Yes, teammates and coaches have questioned the head butting sessions, but Jordan and Janovich don't care.

"There is no reason," Jordan said. "It's probably really stupid, and people tell me that, but I don't listen to them. Once I'm done with football I'll stop."

As for the football part, Janovich quickly earned a reputation this season as a high motor blocker and a powerful runner after he went nuts against Wisconsin. But he's a senior, and Jordan, a sophomore, sees what the elder fullback is doing as laying the path for him in the brand new Danny Langsdorf-led offense.

"It's been a lot of fun seeing the fullback back," Jordan said. "I grew up watching fullbacks, and it's just nice to see them being used again."

Under former offensive coordinator Tim Beck, the fullback went two whole seasons without a carry. It's much different with the more traditional, pro-style attack that's in place now, and it

had been ever since Mike Riley and staff were hired in December.

"There were always fullback plays since fall camp, but they just never really came into the game plan until Wisconsin," Jordan said. "They just saw something in Wisconsin's defense for it, but I always knew the fullback had plays to get the ball. It was really cool to see the fullback score from that far away and to see Jano scoring because he's one of my best friends."

Jordan thinks he can be the next Andy Janovich when the position is turned over to him next season. He may merely be a special teams contributor at this point, and a small one at that, but just ask a member of the starting defense about Jordan, and they will give him his due.

"When I was a freshman on scout team, they knew who I was. They always had to tell me to calm down," Jordan said. "My dad told me all my life to never be told to go faster, always have people telling you to slow down. I remember my freshman year they had to tell me to slow down a lot, and they never had to do that with a scout team player, so I take a lot of honor in that."

He also takes a lot of honor in the position he plays. Growing up in Omaha, Jordan knows all about the storied tradition of the Nebraska fullback.

"I grew up with the Mackovickas and still my idol is Dane Todd," he said. "I've always wanted to be a Nebraska fullback, so I've worked hard all my life to be where I am today."

We might be getting a little ahead of ourselves here, but the Jordan name might be one worth keeping in mind. The sophomore is next in line at fullback and he has a pair of twin brothers set to graduate high school this season who are considering a Nebraska walk-on offer as well.

"My little brother plays fullback, one of the twins, and I told him it could be me, and then hopefully you right after me," Jordan said. "That could be pretty cool because there have been fullback families like that here in the past."

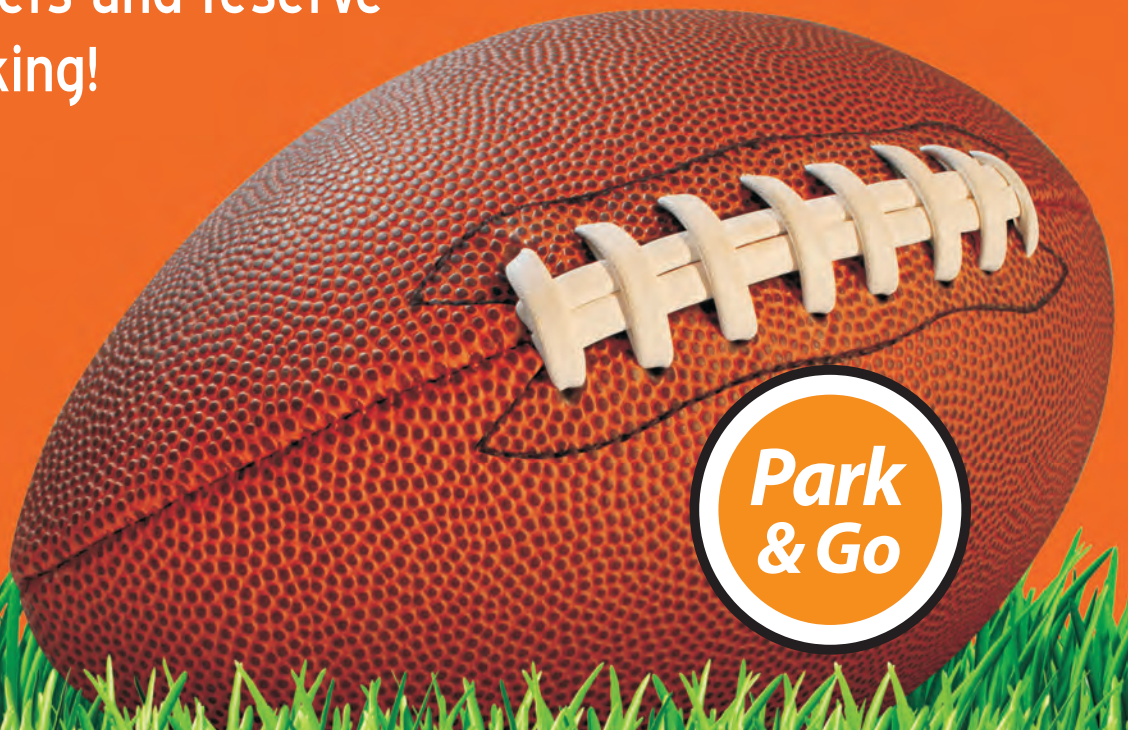




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No	Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Yr	Hometown (Prev School)	No	Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Yr	Hometown (Prev School)
1	Westerkamp, Jordan	WR	6-0	195	Jr.	Lombard, Ill. (Montini Catholic)	42	Foster, Trey	TE	6-0	245	Jr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Southeast)
2	Darlington, Zack	QB	6-2	205	RFr.	Apopka, Fla. (Apopka)	42	Koley, Creighton	DB	6-0	180	RFr.	Omaha, Neb. (Skutt Catholic)
2	Mosley, Trai	CB	5-10	170	RFr.	Pflugerville, Texas (Hendrickson)	43	Classen, Brett	WR	6-2	205	So.	Medina, Minn. (Winona State) (Wayzata)
3	Alston, Lavan	WR	6-0	175	Fr.	Oxnard, Calif. (St. Bonaventure)	43	Ferguson, Tyrin	LB	6-2	200	Fr.	New Orleans, La. (Edna Karr)
3	Newby, Marcus	LB	6-1	235	So.	North Potomac, Md. (Quince Orchard)	44	McCann, Mitch	FB	6-0	235	Jr.	Omaha, Neb. (Elkhorn)
4	Anderson, Avery	DB	6-0	175	Fr.	Surprise, Ariz. (Pine Creek (Colorado Springs))	44	Stoltenberg, Mick	DL	6-5	265	RFr.	Gretna, Neb. (Gretna)
4	Armstrong Jr., Tommy	QB	6-1	220	Jr.	Cibola, Texas (Steele)	45	Natter, A.J.	DE	6-5	250	So.	Milton, Wis. (Milton)
5	Young, Dedrick	LB	6-1	220	Fr.	Peoria, Ariz. (Centennial)	45	Reimers, Bryan	WR	6-5	210	RFr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Lincoln East)
6	Bush, AJ	QB	6-3	220	RFr.	Alpharetta, Ga. (Norcross)	47	Jarzynka, Matt	DE	6-4	240	RFr.	Loup City, Neb. (Loup City)
6	Lee Jr., Eric	DB	6-0	180	Fr.	Milton, Mass. (Valor Christian (Colorado))	48	Evans, Erik	DE	6-3	255	So.	Waverly, Neb. (Waverly)
7	Allen, Taariq	WR	6-3	200	Sr.	Weston, Mass. (The Rivers School)	48	Rahn, Gabe	WR	6-1	190	So.	Le Mars, Iowa (Le Mars)
7	Collins, Maliek	DT	6-2	300	Jr.	Kansas City, Mo. (Center)	49	Hemphill, Austin	FB	6-0	220	Fr.	Gretna, Neb. (Gretna)
8	Jones, Chris	DB	6-0	180	So.	Jacksonville, Fla. (Sandalwood)	49	Weber, Chris	LB	6-3	220	So.	Omaha, Neb. (Elkhorn)
8	Morgan Jr., Stanley	WR	6-0	185	Fr.	New Orleans, La. (St. Augustine)	50	Johns, Garret	DL	6-0	280	Jr.	Aurora, Neb. (Aurora)
9	Broekemeier, Tyson	QB	6-1	200	Sr.	Aurora, Neb. (Aurora)	51	Brugmann, Jared	LB	6-2	225	Fr.	Gretna, Neb. (Gretna)
9	Neal, DaiShon	DE	6-7	250	Fr.	Omaha, Neb. (Central)	51	Freudenburg, Ryan	OL	6-5	305	RFr.	Norfolk, Neb. (Lutheran-Northeast)
10	Kalu, Joshua	CB	6-1	185	So.	Houston, Texas (Alief Taylor)	52	Bandera, Josh	LB	6-2	235	Jr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Southwest)
10	Turner, Jamal	WR	6-1	190	Sr.	Arlington, Texas (Sam Houston)	53	Boryca, Alex	LB	6-2	220	RFr.	Cozad, Neb. (Cozad)
11	Carter, Cethan	TE	6-4	240	Jr.	New Orleans, La. (Archbishop Rummel)	54	Painter, Robby	OL	6-4	290	Jr.	Centennial, Colo. (Grandview)
11	Joseph, Boaz	DB	6-1	190	So.	Weston, Fla. (Cypress Bay)	54	Poppen, Garrett	LB	6-1	215	RFr.	Giltner, Neb. (Giltner)
12	Gifford, Luke	LB	6-3	215	RFr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Southeast)	55	Maurice, Kevin	DT	6-3	280	Jr.	Orlando, Fla. (Freedom)
13	Hovey, Lane	WR	6-4	205	Jr.	Adel, Iowa (Adel-Desoto-Minburn)	55	Thurston, Paul	OL	6-5	295	Jr.	Arvada, Colo. (Arvada West)
13	Talan, Adrienne	LB	6-1	200	Fr.	Davie, Fla. (Flanagan)	56	Gaylord, Christian	OL	6-6	275	Fr.	Baldwin City, Kan. (Baldwin City)
14	Rose, Jonathan	CB	6-1	195	Sr.	Leeds, Ala. (Auburn) (Leeds)	56	Simpson, Brad	LB	6-0	225	Jr.	Omaha, Neb. (Ralston)
15	Pierson-El, De'Mornay	WR	5-9	185	So.	Alexandria, Va. (West Potomac)	57	Sterup, Zach	OL	6-8	320	Sr.	Hastings, Neb. (Hastings St. Cecilia)
15	Rose-Ivey, Michael	LB	5-11	240	Jr.	Kansas City, Mo. (Rockhurst)	57	Weinmaster, Jacob	LB	6-0	200	Fr.	Loveland, Colo. (Loveland)
16	Reed, Antonio	DB	6-2	200	Fr.	Memphis, Tenn. (Southaven (Miss.))	58	Lopez, Joel	DL	6-2	260	So.	Saint Charles, Ill. (Burlington Central)
17	Fyfe, Ryker	QB	6-2	210	Jr.	Grand Island, Neb. (Grand Island)	58	Whitaker, Corey	OL	6-4	290	Jr.	Murrieta, Calif. (Vista Murrieta)
17	King, Sedrick	DE	6-4	240	RFr.	Plant City, Fla. (Plant City)	59	Cleveland, Brody	LB	6-2	210	Fr.	Ogallala, Neb. (Ogallala)
18	Barry, Mohamed	LB	6-1	215	Fr.	Grayson, Ga. (Grayson)	59	Finnin, Matt	OL	6-7	305	Sr.	Crete, Ill. (College of DuPage) (Crete Monee)
19	Keels, Joe	DE	6-3	265	Sr.	Kenosha, Wis. (Highland CC) (Bradford)	62	Conrad, Cole	OL	6-5	290	RFr.	Fremont, Neb. (Archbishop Bergan)
21	Jackson, Charles	DB	5-11	180	Jr.	Spring, Texas (Klein Collins)	63	Farmer, Tanner	OL	6-4	310	RFr.	Highland, Ill. (Highland)
21	Wilbon, Mikale	IB	5-8	190	RFr.	Chicago, Ill. (De La Salle Institute)	65	Reeves, Ryne	OL	6-3	300	Sr.	Crete, Neb. (Crete)
22	Ozigbo, Devine	RB	5-11	225	Fr.	Sachse, Texas (Sachse)	66	Utter, Dylan	OL	6-1	285	Jr.	Papillion, Neb. (Papillion-LaVista)
22	Ridder, Anthony	DB	6-2	205	Fr.	West Point, Neb. (West Point Central Catholic)	67	Foster, Jerald	OL	6-3	310	RFr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Southeast)
23	Davie, Daniel	CB	6-1	190	Sr.	Beatrice, Neb. (Beatrice)	68	Gates, Nick	OL	6-5	290	RFr.	Las Vegas, Nev. (Bishop Gorman)
23	Rose, Austin	IB	6-1	215	RFr.	Lincoln, Neb. (North Star)	70	Kondolo, Chongo	OL	6-4	300	Sr.	Carrollton, Texas (Fresno City College) (Creekview)
24	Williams, Aaron	S	5-11	185	Fr.	Atlanta, Ga. (Carver)	71	Lewis, Alex	OL	6-6	290	Sr.	Tempe, Ariz. (Colorado) (Mountain Pointe)
25	Gerry, Nate	S	6-2	205	Jr.	Sioux Falls, S.D. (Washington)	72	Hannon, Zach	OL	6-5	305	So.	Kansas City, Mo. (Rockhurst)
25	Holtmeier, Blake	WR	6-2	200	RFr.	Kearney, Neb. (Kearney Catholic)	73	Hahn, Sam	OL	6-6	300	Jr.	DeWitt, Neb. (North Dakota St.) (Tri-County)
26	Connelly, Thomas	LB	5-11	205	RFr.	Kearney, Neb. (Kearney Catholic)	74	Barnett, Jalin	OL	6-4	310	Fr.	Lawton, Okla. (Lawton)
26	Pelzer, Brady	WR	5-11	180	RFr.	Bellevue, Neb. (Bellevue East)	75	Anderson, Fyn	DL	6-3	260	Fr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Southeast)
26	Sutcliffe, Jamie	PK	6-2	190	Jr.	Thousand Oaks, Calif. (Utah/Pierce College) (Thousand Oaks)	75	Long, Chris	OL	6-4	300	Sr.	Blair, Neb. (Blair)
27	Foltz, Sam	P	6-1	200	Jr.	Greeley, Neb. (Grand Island)	76	Johnson Jr., Dwayne	OL	6-6	280	So.	Houston, Texas (Bellaire)
27	Johnson, Noah	RB	6-0	195	Fr.	Sutton, Neb. (Sutton)	76	Owen, Dylan	DL	6-5	235	RFr.	Westchester, N.Y. (Bridgton Academy) (Somers)
27	Williams, Kieron	S	6-0	190	So.	Shreveport, La. (Air Force Prep) (C.E. Byrd)	77	Knevel, David	OL	6-9	310	So.	Brantford, Ontario, Canada (Pauline Johnson Collegiate)
28	Cockrell, Byerson	S	6-0	185	Sr.	Columbus, Miss. (East Mississippi CC) (Columbus)	78	Price, Givens	DT	6-4	310	Sr.	Houston, Texas (Alief Taylor)
28	Taylor, Adam	IB	6-2	210	So.	Katy, Texas (Katy)	79	Decker, Michael	OL	6-4	285	Fr.	Omaha, Neb. (North)
29	Graham, Nolan	DB	5-11	200	RFr.	Firth, Neb. (Norris)	82	Moore, Alonzo	WR	6-2	195	Jr.	Winnfield, La. (Winnfield Senior)
29	Nabity, Graham	IB	6-0	210	Jr.	Omaha, Neb. (Elkhorn)	84	Cotton, Sam	TE	6-4	250	Jr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Southeast)
30	Kittrell, Bo	FB	6-1	225	RFr.	Ashland, Neb. (Ashland-Greenwood)	85	Snyder, Matt	TE	6-5	245	Fr.	San Ramon, Calif. (California)
31	Young, Conor	WR	6-1	170	Fr.	Cozad, Neb. (Cozad)	86	Sutton, David	TE	6-3	255	Sr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Southeast)
32	Cross, Imani	IB	6-1	240	Sr.	Gainesville, Ga. (North Hall)	87	Reilly, Brandon	WR	6-1	195	Jr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Southwest)
32	Davis, Alex	DE	6-5	230	Fr.	Riviera Beach, Fla. (Dwyer)	88	Dzuris, Ross	DE	6-3	250	Jr.	Plattsmouth, Neb. (Plattsmouth)
33	Bailey, Christian	WR	5-11	205	So.	San Clemente, Calif. (San Clemente)	88	Hoppes, Tyler	TE	6-4	240	So.	Lincoln, Neb. (Wayne State) (Southwest)
33	McKay, Garrett	LB	6-0	210	Jr.	Anaheim Hills, Calif. (Santa Ana College) (Servite)	89	Ketter, Connor	TE	6-5	245	So.	Norfolk, Neb. (Norfolk Catholic)
34	Brown, Drew	PK	5-11	180	So.	Southlake, Texas (Southlake Carroll)	90	McMullen, Greg	DE	6-3	280	Jr.	Akron, Ohio (Hoban)
34	Newby, Terrell	IB	5-10	200	Jr.	Los Angeles, Calif. (Chaminade)	91	Akinmoladun, Freedom	DE	6-4	255	RFr.	Grandview, Mo. (Grandview)
35	Janovich, Andy	FB	6-1	230	Sr.	Gretna, Neb. (Gretna)	92	Urbach, Chase	LS	6-3	200	Fr.	Grosse Pointe, Mich. (Grosse Pointe South)
36	Karel, Reid	ATH	6-3	190	Fr.	Seward, Neb. (Seward)	92	Williams, Kevin	DT	6-2	275	Sr.	Holland, Ohio (Springfield)
37	Lazaro, Noah	LB	6-2	225	Fr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Lincoln Southwest)	94	Davis, Khalil	DL	6-2	265	Fr.	Blue Springs, Mo. (Blue Springs)
37	Mazour, Wyatt	RB	5-9	190	Fr.	Albion, Neb. (Boone Central)	95	Gangwish, Jack	DE	6-2	265	Sr.	Wood River, Neb. (Wood River)
38	Jordan, Harrison	FB	5-10	230	So.	Omaha, Neb. (Westside)	95	Lindsay, Spencer	PK	5-9	205	Jr.	Kearney, Neb. (Kearney)
39	Nelson, Jordan	IB	5-7	180	Jr.	Omaha, Neb. (Burke)	96	Davis, Carlos	DL	6-2	265	Fr.	Blue Springs, Mo. (Blue Springs)
40	Betka, Ty	WR	5-7	165	Jr.	Superior, Neb. (Drake)	97	Rath, Logan	DT	6-4	280	Jr.	Giltner, Neb. (South Dakota State) (Giltner)
40	Ober, Jordan	LS	6-1	200	Fr.	Las Vegas, Nev. (Bishop Gorman)	98	Valentine, Vincent	DT	6-3	320	Jr.	Edwardsville, Ill. (Edwardsville)
41	McNitt, Luke	TE	6-2	240	So.	Kearney, Neb. (Nebraska-Kearney) (Kearney)	99	Newell, Peyton	DL	6-3	270	RFr.	Hiawatha, Kan. (Hiawatha)





10-31

AT PURDUE

2015

## 2015 SCHEDULE

Sept. 5	Norfolk State	W, 63-13
Sept. 12	Washington State	L, 37-34
Sept. 19	@ Penn State	L, 28-3
Sept. 26	Kansas	W, 27-14
Oct. 10	Michigan State	L, 31-24
Oct. 17	@ Indiana	W, 55-52
Oct. 24	Ohio State	L, 49-7
Oct. 31	@ Wisconsin	L, 48-10
Nov. 7	@ Michigan	L, 49-16

**Nov. 14 Nebraska**

Nov. 21 @ Army

Nov. 28 Maryland

## 2014 RESULTS (8-5, 3-5)

@ Washington State	W, 41-38
Howard	W, 38-25
Penn State	L, 13-10
@ Navy	W, 31-24
Tulane	W, 31-6
Michigan	W, 26-24
@ Ohio State	L, 56-17
@ Nebraska	L, 42-24
Wisconsin	L, 37-0
Indiana	W, 45-23
@ Michigan State	L, 45-3
@ Maryland	W, 41-38
North Carolina*	W, 40-21

\*Quick Lane Bowl

## HEAD COACH

Kyle Flood is currently a lame duck coach. He was suspended for three games during the season and fined for rules violations involving players on his team.

Many expect him to be fired after the season as Rutgers wants to distance themselves from this black eye.

It will be a tough decision for the Rutgers administration to let Flood go. He has been coaching at the school since 2005 when he began as the offensive line coach. He then added the assistant head coach tag in 2012 under head coach Greg Schiano. After Schiano left for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in January of 2012, Flood was named as the new Rutgers head coach.



Leontee Carroo has been limited by injury and suspension, but still is a dangerous offensive threat.

**Story By Shane G. Gilster • Photos by Ben Solomon, Rutgers Athletics**

### Rutgers Can Be Tough at Home

The Huskers travel to New Jersey for the first time since they played at the Kickoff Classic in 1994 against West Virginia.

But this version of the Husker football team is not like that '94 squad. The 2015 edition has struggled, but is coming off a big win over previously-undefeated Michigan State. This Rutgers team has less talent, but as we have seen in most of its other losses, Nebraska has played down to their opponent's level.

Rutgers has a similar record (3-6) as the Huskers (4-6) but has played teams tough at home. In its three home losses, they lost by three points to Washington State and seven to Michigan State.

### Prediction

The loss to Purdue shows how vulnerable Nebraska can be on the road. Rutgers is a better team than the Boilermakers and combined with the inconsistent play of the Huskers, a Scarlet Knight win wouldn't be a surprise. But the Huskers still have a bowl game in their sites and should come out on top.

**Nebraska 33, Rutgers 27**

### A look back - '94 National Championship quest begins with a bang

**Nebraska 31, West Virginia 0**

*Aug. 28, 1994 in Kickoff Classic in East Rutherford, New Jersey*



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Rutgers linebacker Quentin Gause is a captain of the Scarlet Knights and one of their top tacklers on the season.

No. 4 Nebraska was on a mission in 1994 to return to the national championship game after almost winning it the year before.

Their first game was against the 24th-ranked West Virginia Mountaineers in the Kickoff Classic. The Huskers traveled to New Jersey for the first time since 1988 when they played Texas A&M in the same game to kick off the college football season.

The Cornhuskers looked like national championship material as they blanked the Mountaineers 31-0 behind Husker quarterback MVP Tommie Frazier, who ran for 130 yards and three touchdowns and threw for 100.

The NU defense sacked West Virginia eight times and held them to 89 yards of total offense and nine first downs.

"We pretty much showed the nation, 'Hey, Nebraska's got a pretty good defense,'" said NU linebacker Doug Coleman. "We have enough guys up front to blitz and enough guys in the secondary to cover the pass well."

## Offensive Preview

Leonte Carroo was a preseason Biletnikoff Award candidate but has had a rough season thus far. He has been suspended and missed games with an injury. But having played in

just five games, he is still the Scarlet Knights' leading receiver with 527 yards and has nine touchdowns. He is averaging over 100 yards receiving a game.

In the run game, Rutgers has three capable backs that have all rushed for about the same amount of yardage and are each averaging over five yards per carry.

## Defensive Preview

The linebacking tandem of Quentin Gause and Steve Longa are becoming as good as there is in the Big Ten. They both could have over 100 tackles on the season.

"Those two guys are seasoned performers and guys that we count on," said Rutgers head coach Kyle Flood. "Quentin is the captain and Steve has played a lot of football here and he's always at the top of the tackle list. We always count on those guys to make a lot of plays."

As a team, the defense is giving up 34 points a game and almost 300 per game in the air.

## Special Teams Preview

Janarion Grant is Rutgers' career leader in kickoff return yardage. This season he is averaging 26 yards per return and has taken three back for touchdowns. He is one of the most

dangerous kick returners as there is in the country.

## Last game

**Michigan 49, Rutgers 16**

*Played Nov. 7 at Ann Arbor, Michigan*

Rutgers stayed in the game in the first half thanks to Janarion Grant. The standout kick returner took a kickoff 98 yards for a touchdown and set up a field goal with a 67-yard punt return to the Michigan 9 just before the half.

Grant was pretty much the Rutgers offense as quarterback Chris Laviano had a tough day passing with 11 of 26 for 97 yards. The Scarlet Knights finished 225 yards of total offense.

Rutgers though was without two of their best offensive threats, wide receiver Leonte Carroo and halfback Paul James.

The Scarlet Knight defense did a good job against the Michigan run game, allowing less than four yards per rush for 150 yards, but the pass defense was subpar giving up a career best 337 yards through the air by Wolverine quarterback Jack Rudock.

## Fast Facts

**Location:** Piscataway, N.J.

**Enrollment:** 65,000

**First Year of Football:** 1869

**National Titles:** 1

**Big Ten Titles:** 0

**Stadium Name:** High Point Solutions Stadium

**Stadium Capacity:** 52,454

**Nickname:** Scarlet Knights

**Colors:** Scarlet

**Mascot:** Scarlet Knight

**2014 Overall Record:** 8-5

**2014 Big Ten Record:** 3-5

**Conference:** Big Ten

**Starters Returning:** (14) – Offense (5), Defense (5), Specialists (4)

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# RUTGERS SCARLET KNIGHTS

## 2015 FOOTBALL ROSTER



No	Name	Pos	Yr	Ht	Wt	Hometown (Prev School)	No	Name	Pos	Yr	Ht	Wt	Hometown (Prev School)
1	Federico, Kyle	PK	SR	6-0	190	Ponte Vedra, Fla./Ponte Vedra	48	Folkerts, Anthony	TE	FR	6-4	220	Ray City, Ga./Valwood
1	Grant, Janarion	WR	JR	5-11	170	Trilby, Fla./Pasco	49	Russell, Brandon	LB	RS FR	6-1	225	Pembroke Pines, Fla./University
2	Hester, Kiy	DB	RS FR	6-0	215	Plainfield, N.J./DePaul Catholic/Miami (FL)	50	Gause, Quentin	LB	RS SR	6-1	235	Rochester, N.Y./Bishop Kearney
3	Longa, Steve	LB	RS JR	6-1	225	Saddle Brook, N.J./Saddle Brook	51	Joseph, Sebastian	DL	RS SO	6-4	295	Stroudsburg, Pa./Stroudsburg
3	Harris, Jawuan	WR	FR	5-11	190	Pembroke Pines, Fla./St. Thomas Aquinas	53	Pinnix-Odrick, Julian	DL	RS JR	6-5	275	Montclair, N.J./Montclair
4	Carroo, Leonte	WR	SR	6-1	215	Edison, N.J./Don Bosco Prep	54	Seymour, Kamaal	DL	FR	6-6	295	Brooklyn, N.Y./Grand Street Campus
5	Laviano, Chris	QB	RS SO	6-3	210	Glen Head, N.Y./Holy Trinity	55	Rosa, Austin	LB	FR	6-0	210	Reading, Pa./Wilson West Lawn
5	James, Ronnie	DB	FR	6-0	185	Glassboro, N.J./Glassboro	55	Brodie, Ryan	OL	RS JR	6-5	320	Long Branch, N.J./Long Branch
6	Peoples, Desmon	RB	RS JR	5-8	170	Cheltenham, Pa./Archbishop Wood	56	Ford, Marques	DL	FR	6-4	235	Riverview, Fla./East Bay
7	Martin, Robert	RB	SO	6-0	205	Harrisburg, Pa./Harrisburg	57	Stonkus, Bryan	OL	SR	6-4	255	South Brunswick, N.J./South Brunswick
8	Hicks, Josh	RB	SO	5-10	215	Palmetto, Fla./Palmetto	58	Turay, Kemoko	DE	RS SO	6-6	240	Newark, N.J./Barringer
9	Hampton, Saquan	DB	RS FR	6-1	190	Hamilton, N.J./Nottingham	59	Davis, Jr., Darnell	LB/DL	RS SO	6-2	250	Union, N.J./Avon Old Farms School
10	Austin, Blessuan	DB	FR	6-1	185	Queens, N.Y./Campus Magnet/Milford Academy	60	Miller, Dorian	OL	RS SO	6-3	285	Metuchen, N.J./Metuchen
11	Rettig, Hayden	QB	RS SO	6-3	210	Los Angeles, Calif./Cathedral High School/LSU	63	Rowell, Chris	OL	FR	6-5	280	West Chazy, N.Y./Beekmantown
11	Wharton, Isaiah	DB	RS FR	6-1	210	Kissimmee, Fla./Gateway	64	Pyrame, Skiy	OL	FR	6-4	280	Queens, N.Y./Christ the King
13	Agudosi, Carlton	WR	RS JR	6-6	220	Somerset, N.J./Franklin	65	Cole, Tariq	OL	RS FR	6-7	320	Long Beach, N.Y./Long Beach
14	Lewis, Kaiwan	LB	SR	6-0	230	Pleasantville, N.J./St. Joseph (Hammonton)/South Carolina	66	Webb, Jacquis	OL	RS FR	6-5	320	Rochester, N.Y./Gates Chili
15	Morris, Trevor	LB	FR	6-2	205	King of Prussia, Pa./Malvern Prep	67	Roman, Kenneth	DL	FR	6-5	310	Hawley, Pa./Wallenpaupack/Milford Academy
15	Clements, Jack	QB	FR	6-4	210	Moorestown, N.J./St. Joseph's Prep (Pa.)	68	Hutchings, Alex	LS	FR	6-4	200	Webster, N.Y./Webster-Thomas
16	Parker, Christopher	WR	FR	5-7	165	Harlem, N.Y./Poly Prep	69	Nelson, Derrick	OL	RS JR	6-3	295	Capitol Heights, Md./Archbishop Carroll
17	Rescigno, Giovanni	QB	RS FR	6-4	225	Warren, Mich./De La Salle	70	Muller, Chris	OL	RS JR	6-6	310	Perkiomenville, Pa./Boyetown
18	Dare, Michael	QB	FR	6-5	225	Elmwood Park, N.J./Elmwood Park Memorial	71	Applefield, Marcus	OL	RS FR	6-6	300	Weeki Wachee, Fla./Weeki Wachee
19	Anthony, Troy	QB	JR	6-3	195	Albany, N.Y./Christian Brothers Academy/Hobart	72	Taylor, Manny	OL	FR	6-6	295	Philadelphia, Pa./Roman Catholic
20	Carter, Devan	LB	RS SO	6-2	210	Rochester, N.Y./Brighton	73	Jackson, Jonah	OL	FR	6-4	295	Media, Pa./Penncrest
21	Snorweah, Charles	RB	FR	5-10	180	Levittown, Pa./Pennsbury	74	Lumpkin, Keith	OL	RS SR	6-8	325	Montclair, N.J./St. Peter's Prep
22	Lambert, Quanzell	DL	RS JR	6-1	260	Sicklerville, N.J./Timber Creek	75	Venesky, Zach	OL	FR	6-2	285	Peckville, Pa./Valley View
25	Adams, Jarius	DB	FR	5-10	180	Palm Beach Gardens, Fla./Dwyer	77	Denman, J.J.	OL	RS JR	6-6	305	Yardley, Pa./Pennsbury
26	Roberts, Deonte	LB	FR	6-1	220	Brooklyn, N.Y./Erasmus Hall	78	Shutack, Jack	OL	FR	6-6	275	Western Springs, Ill./Nazareth Academy
28	Clayton, Najee	DB	FR	6-2	205	Paterson, N.J./Paramus Catholic	79	Heeman, Zack	OL	RS FR	6-7	295	Budd Lake, N.J./Mount Olive
29	Jacobs, Davon	DB	RS JR	6-0	195	Paterson, N.J./DePaul Catholic	80	Schoen, Alex	WR	RS SO	5-8	165	Short Hills, N.J./Millburn/Syracuse
30	Hunt, Andre	DB	RS SO	6-0	200	Apple Valley, Minn./Cretin Durham Hall	81	Flanagan, Matt	TE	RS SO	6-6	240	Chester, N.J./West Morris Mendham
30	Dowd, Conor	FB	FR	5-11	215	Madison, Conn./Hand/Milford Academy	82	Perry, Ntwademela	WR	RS FR	6-3	200	Durban Westville, South Africa/Star College HS
31	Cioffi, Anthony	DB	JR	6-0	200	Springfield, N.J./Jonathan Dayton	83	Blunt, Rashad	WR	FR	6-2	185	St. John's, Fla./Creekside
32	Goodwin, Justin	RB	JR	6-0	200	Madison, N.J./Madison	84	Tsimis, John	WR	JR	6-0	190	Harrington Park, N.J./Bergen Catholic
33	Jones, Greg	RB	RS JR	6-0	205	Colonia, N.J./Colonia/Monroe/Middlesex CC/East Stroudsburg	85	Stewart, Justice	WR	FR	6-2	185	Union, N.J./Union
34	Abdur-Ra'ooof, Talib	DB	RS FR	6-0	205	East Orange N.J./Bergen Catholic	85	Lucy, Alan	LS	SO	6-0	230	Dinwiddie, Va./Dinwiddie
34	James, Paul	RB	RS SR	6-0	215	Glassboro, N.J./Glassboro	86	Griffin-Stewart, Nakia	TE	FR	6-5	240	Tenaflly, N.J./Tenaflly
35	Margolis, Eric	LB	RS FR	6-4	225	New City, N.Y./Clarkstown South	87	Matthews, Vance	WR	RS JR	6-4	200	Cape May, N.J./Lower Cape May Regional
36	Taylor, T.J.	LB	RS SO	6-3	205	Kendall Park, N.J./South Brunswick	88	Patton, Andre	WR	JR	6-4	200	Wilmington, Del./St. Elizabeth
37	Anthony, Max	FB	FR	6-2	255	Albany, N.Y./Christian Brothers Academy/Phillips Academy	89	Owens, Dontae	WR	FR	6-0	185	Reading, Pa./Reading
37	Campbell, Zane	DB	JR	6-3	180	Delran, N.J./Delran HS/Wesley	90	Carter, Ron'Dell	DL	FR	6-2	240	Baltimore, Md./Long Reach
38	Nash, Myles	DL	RS SO	6-5	240	Sicklerville, N.J./Timber Creek	91	Hamilton, Darius	DL	SR	6-4	265	West Paterson, N.J./Don Bosco Prep
39	Any, Sandy	WR	RS SO	5-10	180	Somerset, N.J./Franklin	92	Wiafe, Eric	DL	RS FR	6-5	280	Egg Harbor Township, N.J./Egg Harbor Township/Milford Academy
40	Chase, Brian	DB	FR	5-9	170	Baltimore, Md./Episcopal	93	Mera, Djwany	DL	RS SR	6-4	265	Hollywood, Fla./South Broward/Hargrave Military Academy
40	Marquez, Kevin	LB	RS JR	6-1	245	Egg Harbor Township, N.J./Egg Harbor Township/Fork Union Military Academy	94	Gough, Chris	PK	RS SR	6-3	185	Winslow, N.J./St. Augustine Prep/Villanova
41	Verbitski, Brian	DB	RS JR	6-0	185	Burlington, N.J./Burlington Township	94	Cintron, Michael	PK/P	RS FR	6-4	205	Piscataway, N.J./St. Joseph's Metuchen
41	Rafferty, Nick	LB	RS SO	6-2	220	Andover, N.J./Lenape Valley	95	Bateky, Jon	DL	FR	6-4	265	Boyd's, Md./Poolesville
42	Arcidiacono, Nick	TE	JR	6-5	240	Holland, Pa./Archbishop Wood	96	Roth, Joey	P	RS JR	6-0	180	Basking Ridge, N.J./Ridge/College of the Canyons
43	Walker, D'Won	DB	FR	6-2	180	Jersey City, N.J./St. Peter's Prep	96	Murray, Aidan	P	RS JR	5-8	170	Mahwah, N.J./Don Bosco Prep
43	Behr, George	TE	RS FR	6-5	230	Cottage Grove, Minn./East Ridge	96	Previlon, Willington	DL	FR	6-5	255	Orange, N.J./Orange
44	Gause, Joseph	WR	FR	6-4	220	Rochester, N.Y./Bishop Kearney/Milford Academy	97	Daly, Kevin	PK/P	RS FR	6-2	180	Somers, N.Y./Kennedy Catholic
44	Bergen, Sam	FB	GS	6-0	250	East Stroudsburg, Pa./East Stroudsburg South	98	Bonagura, David	PK/P	RS SO	6-0	245	Franklin Lakes, N.J./Ramapo
45	Oliver, Shaquan	FB	FR	5-10	225	Montclair, N.J./Montclair	98	Hogan, Jimmy	DL	RS FR	6-4	250	Wyckoff, N.J./Ramapo
45	Farina, Jeffrey	RB	FR	5-11	195	Fairfield, N.J./St. Joseph (Montvale)/Jireh Prep (N.C.)	99	Gleeson, Tim	P	SR	6-2	200	Melbourne, Australia/Viewbank College Prep/Santa Barbara CC/Wyoming
46	Scarff, Charles	TE	SO	6-5	240	Lancaster, Pa./Lancaster Catholic	99	Wilkins, Kevin	DL	RS FR	6-3	295	Mahwah, N.J./St. Joseph's (Montvale)
47	Johnson, Isaiah	LB	JR	6-2	225	Oakland, Calif./Bishop O'Dowd/City College of San Francisco							



## BIGTEN NOTEBOOK

# Resurgence of the East

*Ohio State, Iowa remain unbeaten, Michigan State knocked from the ranks of a perfect season.* | DARREN IVY

**IT WAS A COMPETITIVE** week of games in the Big Ten as only the inter-division tilts between Illinois and Purdue and Michigan vs. Rutgers were lop-sided affairs.

The West Division used a couple of late comebacks to earn victories over East Division foes.

Nebraska came back late to hand Michigan State its first loss of the season 39-38, while Northwestern kicked a late field goal to upend Penn State 23-21 and continue on its late season resurgence.

Wisconsin also earned a hard fought 31-24 victory over Maryland, while Iowa pulled away late to remain unbeaten with a 35-27 victory.

Only Ohio State, which was without starting quarterback J.T. Barrett, was able to salvage a victory for the East Division with its 28-14 win over Minnesota.

Following *Huskers Illustrated* takes a look at football happenings around the Big Ten.

### EAST DIVISION INDIANA

Through nine games, the Hoosiers have given up the most points in the Big Ten at 333, which probably explains why they are 0-5 after starting the season 4-0.

On the bright side, the Hoosiers are averaging 32.4 points per game and rank second in the Big Ten in passing offense at 285.1 yards per game.

Jordan Howard had 22 carries for 174 yards and two TDs against an Iowa defense that came into Saturday allowing just 85.8 yards per game and only one rushing score all season.

### MARYLAND

The Terps battled the Badgers tight, but didn't have enough offense to upset the Badgers. The Terps rank second to last in the Big Ten Conference in total offense

at 341.2 yards per game. Maryland's total defense is 10th, which helps explain by it hasn't won a conference game and currently is 2-7 on the season.

### MICHIGAN

The Wolverines; defense continue to shut down opponents in Saturday's 49-16 win over Rutgers. Michigan ranks first in the Big Ten in total defense at 240.1 yards per game, first in pass efficiency defense, first in rush defense and first in pass defense.

The Wolverines offense has been the middle of the pack among conference teams, but kickoff returns are first in the conference, which has given Michigan shorter fields to work with.

Tight end Jake Butt had four receptions for a career-high 102 yards in the win against Rutgers.

The Wolverines still control their own fate with conference games left against Indiana, Penn State and Ohio State.

### MICHIGAN STATE

Michigan State suffered its first loss of season against Nebraska, but still controls its own destiny to the Big Ten Championship game.

The Spartans led the Big Ten in third-down conversion, making more than 50 percent of their attempts. The Spartans didn't hurt that average against Nebraska, converting of 8 of 14 opportunities. However, with a chance to ice the game late, the Spartans went three and out and gave the Huskers just enough time to mount a comeback.

### OHIO STATE

With J.T. Barrett suspended for one game and Cardale Jones back at quarterback for one game, running back Ezekiel Elliott carried the slack, rushing for 114 yards, which was his 14th-straight 100-yard game.

"Offensively we were sloppy and not ex-

### EAST DIVISION 2015 Standings

Team	Overall	Conference
Ohio State	9-0	5-0
Michigan State	8-1	4-1
Michigan	7-2	4-1
Penn State	7-3	4-2
Rutgers	3-6	1-5
Maryland	2-7	0-5
Indiana	4-5	0-5

### WEST DIVISION

Team	Overall	Conference
Iowa	9-0	5-0
Wisconsin	8-2	5-1
Northwestern	7-2	3-2
Illinois	5-4	2-3
Nebraska	4-6	2-4
Minnesota	4-5	1-4
Purdue	2-7	1-4

### Nov. 7 Results

Illinois 48, Purdue 14  
Northwestern 23, Penn State 21  
Wisconsin 31, Maryland 24  
Iowa 35, Indiana 27  
Michigan 49, Rutgers 16  
Nebraska 39, Michigan State 38  
Ohio State 28, Minnesota 14

### Nov. 14 Games

Nebraska at Rutgers 2:30 p.m.  
Purdue at Northwestern 11 a.m.  
Michigan at Indiana TBD  
Maryland at Michigan State TBD  
Ohio State at Illinois TBD  
Minnesota at Iowa 7 p.m.

### Nov. 21 Games

Purdue at Iowa TBD  
Indiana at Maryland TBD  
Illinois at Minnesota TBD  
Michigan State at Ohio State TBD  
Michigan at Penn State TBD  
Northwestern at Wisconsin TBD  
Rutgers at Army 11 a.m.

*All times CT*





Nebraska players gather in the endzone under the lights before the Michigan State game before heading into the locker room for the tunnel walk.

cutting at a high level,” Ohio State head coach Urban Meyer said. “It’s not what we expect. We expect to play better.”

Vonn Bell returned an interception 16 yards for his first career touchdown for a 21-0 lead that held up despite the Gophers’ late surge of 14 points in the fourth quarter to make things interesting.

#### PENN STATE

The Nittany Lions’ Carl Nassib added to his sack total against Northwestern and has set a Penn State single-season record with 15 1/2 sacks.

Saquon Barkley ran for 120 yards and had two scores, and the second with 12:22 left gave the Nittany Lions a 21-20 lead. They had a chance to take more time off the clock but Barkley was stopped short on a third and one at his own 15 with 2:25 to go, giving Northwestern the ball back.

“We were able to fight back, but at the end of the day they were better than us today,” said Penn State quarterback Christian Hackenberg, who was 21 of 40 for 205 yards. “You’ve got to give them a lot of credit.”

#### RUTGERS

The Scarlet Knights’ scored all 16 of their points in the first half against

Michigan.

The Scarlet Knights (3-6, 1-5) have lost three straight by a combined score of 146-33 to Michigan, Wisconsin and top-ranked Ohio State.

Rutgers has to close the regular season with three-straight wins to be eligible for a fifth-consecutive bowl and to perhaps help Kyle Flood keep his job.

#### WEST DIVISION ILLINOIS

The return of Josh Ferguson helped the Illini ended a three-game losing streak with a 48-14 win over Purdue.

Ferguson rushed 12 times for 133 yards and teammate Ke’Shawn Vaughn finished with 16 carries for 180 yards and two score.

“You can tell the difference in our offense when Fergie is in there,” Illinois coach Bill Cubit said of the back who had been sidelined with a shoulder injury since the Nebraska game. “It’s a little bit different of an offense when he is in there. Ke’Shawn played really well, too. We also got some big plays from Wes in the passing game.”

As a team, Illinois, which came into the game as the worst rushing team in the Big Ten, finished with 382 yards.

Quarterback Wes Lunt threw three first-half touchdowns.

At 5-4, the Illini must win one of their remaining games to get bowl eligible.

#### IOWA

The unbeaten Hawkeyes were once again tested, but passed with a 35-27 road victory at Indiana. Quarterback C.J. Beathard completed 19 of 31 pass attempts for 233 yards and a score and also rushed five times for 38 yards and a score, in which he hurt his back diving into the endzone.

“Nothing serious, I just bruised my back,” he said. “I’m not 100 percent, but when the adrenaline’s going, it felt pretty good.”

Akrum Wadley scored on a 65-yard run on the second offensive play of the game and finished with 12 carries and 120 yards.

Cornerback Desmond King picked off his eighth pass, tying Iowa’s single-season school record,

#### MINNESOTA

Minnesota managed only 110 yards of offense through three quarters but quarterback Mitch Leidner three two fourth quarter touchdowns passes, the last with





Nebraska quarterback Tommy Armstrong Jr. bulls over a Michigan State defender on his touchdown run.

2:10 left, to bring the Golden Gophers within 21-14. Leidne finished 27 of 44 for 281 yards with the one interception.

The onside kick went out of bounds and the Buckeyes tacked on a late touchdown.

#### **NORTHWESTERN**

Backup quarterback Zack Oliver passed for one touchdown and ran for another after replacing injured starter Clayton Thorson, who was hit with 3:09 left in the first quarter by Penn State's Carl Nassib. Thorson completed a 13-yard pass to Christian Jones but suffered a lower-body injury on the play and didn't return. Running back Justin Jackson rushed for a career-high 186 yards and Solomon Vault added a 96-yard kickoff return for a touchdown with 2:04 left in the first half. After leading 20-7,

Penn State scored two second-half touchdowns and it came down to Jack Mitchell knocking through a 35-yard field goal with nine seconds left for the win.

"I've got great confidence in Jack," Northwestern coach Pat Fitzgerald said. "I had full confidence he was going to make that kick. He's pretty good."

#### **PURDUE**

Coming off a 55-point effort against Nebraska, Purdue gained only 25 yards in the first quarter on homecoming and finished the opening half with 39 plays for 105 yards. Purdue finished with only 263 total yards.

"I thought we would execute better in all phases," Purdue coach Darrell Hazell said. "We did not. We never got into any rhythm offensively, especially early. On defense, we gave up way too many big

plays."

Quarterback David Blough finished 29 of 47 for 174 yards and was intercepted twice.

#### **WISCONSIN**

After being tied at 17 at halftime, the Badgers outscored Maryland 14-7 in the second half to secure its fifth-straight victory by a 31-24 margin.

At halftime, Wisconsin had 94 yards of total offense. More than half of those 94 yards came on a 57-yard run by outside linebacker Joe Schobert on a fake punt.

The Badgers were without running back Corey Clement, who had lingering soreness from sports hernia surgery. Clement missed seven games before returning last week to score three touchdowns against Rutgers.





Story By Shane G. Gilster • Photo courtesy of NU Media Relations

## GETTING BACK ON TRACK

### Nebraska rebounds against Jayhawks

Nebraska 41, Kansas 9

Nov. 10, 1990 in Lawrence, Kansas

Husker fans had to wonder if their team would rebound against the Jayhawks after a demoralizing loss to Colorado the week before.

In that defeat to the Buffaloes, NU not only lost the Big 8 title but they also missed out on the No. 1 ranking and shot at the national championship in the Orange Bowl.

Kansas sported a 3-5-1 record and wasn't a terrible team. So an upset over a disheartened Husker squad was a real possibility.

In the first half it looked like the Jayhawks would make a game of it. As 32-point underdogs, Kansas outplayed the 13-ranked Cornhuskers in the first half.

The Jayhawks missed a handful of golden opportunities to get in front of NU early. They were inside the Nebraska 30-yard line four times but could only get a field goal.

They missed two makeable field goals and missed a wide-open touchdown pass.

"We were ahead 17-3 at halftime, but I kind of felt like it was done with mirrors," said NU head coach Tom Osborne. "Kansas could have easily been ahead, but we were lucky."

Nebraska couldn't get much going rushing the ball in the first half. They managed only one first down on its first two offensive series. So on their third possession, they went to their freshman tight end Johnny Mitchell.

On fourth down, quarterback Mickey Joseph threw a 35-yard touchdown pass

to Mitchell and the extra point made the score 7-3 with 2:28 left in the first quarter.

Mitchell again came up with a big play on NU's next scoring drive. He hauled in a 45-yard pass from Joseph, setting up the Huskers at the KU 23. But the Huskers could only muster three points.

Then with 11 seconds left before halftime Mitchell got behind the Jayhawk defense and caught a 28-yard touchdown pass. NU led 17-3 and felt fortunate to have any kind of lead with the way they played in the first half.

Kansas continued to move up and down the field on the Cornhuskers in the second half but couldn't cash in against a defense that ranked No. 4 nationally in total yards allowed.

Overall, the Jayhawks totaled 410 yards of offense but only had nine points to show for it.

KU head coach Glen Mason was shocked his team was able to move the

ball as well as it did against Nebraska.

"I've watched a lot of film on them, and no one has moved the ball like that."

But finally the NU offense awoke fully in the second half, when I-back Scott Baldwin scored on a 67-yard touchdown run which opened up the Husker rushing offense to a tune of 359 yards.

When the smoked cleared, NU walked away with a 41-9 victory. Even though it was a much closer game than the score indicated, the Huskers were just happy to win.

"This game helped a lot," said Joseph on the team's mood after rebounding from the Colorado loss. "I see my teammates smiling again, and that makes me happy."



Tight end Johnny Mitchell makes a touchdown catch against K





Nebraska during the 41-9 victory back in 1990.





# A Stroll Down Rasmussen Road With **DAVE REDDING**

Football Player 1973-75

## Column by Butch Rasmussen

This guy worked for eight college and professional football teams, lived for five years on a yacht on San Diego Harbor, spent quality time as a high school athlete in his tree house on the Platte River getting warmth from a Coleman Stove and later purchased an island retreat on the Platte River near Grand Island which he visits as often as possible.

Talk about a colorful life!

I took a phone call from Dave Redding. He was a couple of hours out of North Platte ("TOWN" if you'd rather use this) and looking for someone to buy his lunch and a cold beer. He knew he'd called the right guy.

Redding walked in and the first thing that caught my eye was a diamond ring the size and weight of a hub cap from a classic car.

Dave warned me not to be too impressed. He said there were only 109 diamonds in that ring as he draped his left hand over his right wrist so I wouldn't miss the view. The ring came as a trinket for his job coaching the strength program for the Green Bay Packers and represented the Pack's 2011 Super Bowl win.

Dave is the son of a high school football coach known as Crump Redding, who knew something about turning high school athletes into state champions.

So Crump took a bunch of better than average athletes who weren't doing well when he arrived, including Dave and turned them into Nebraska Class A Football Champions in 1962.

Dave learned plenty from his dad and was a talented player in



his own right and in 1971 Bob Devaney waved a football scholarship in front of Dave's face and Dave was off to Lincoln to try on for size that number 84 jersey. He lettered for the Huskers as a defensive end from 1973-75.

After college Dave worked under Tom Osborne as a grad assistant in 1976 and was hired in 1977 by Warren Powers, former Husker halfback from 1960-62 who was then head football coach at Washington State. Powers wanted Redding to establish a weight program for the Cougars and Redding became the first ever head strength and conditioning coach at Washington State.

Coincidentally Washington State was on the Husker schedule that year and the Huskers were a heavy favorite, but Washington State was victorious in Lincoln 19-10. Powers and staff, including Redding, moved on the next

year in 1978 to coach the Missouri Tigers in the Big 8 Conference.

The Huskers had Missouri on their conference schedule that year so they would face Powers and Redding in consecutive years. The Huskers were favored in '78 but lost to Powers, Redding and Mizzou 35-31 in Lincoln. Not easy to take – two former Huskers taking it to Nebraska in Lincoln as underdogs two years in a row.

Redding had followed Powers to Missouri to establish the first ever strength and conditioning program for the Tigers as he had done for the Cougars the year before. Although Redding's teams beat Nebraska twice in a row, Redding gives credit to Osborne for "teaching me how to win."

Redding went on to establish the first ever strength and conditioning program for the Cleveland Browns pro football team

and became their head strength coach for seven seasons through 1988.

He became head strength coach for the Kansas City Chiefs for nine years through 1997 and went to similar positions with the Washington Redskins, the San Diego Chargers and the Packers before his retirement in 2011.

Redding says he's most proud of that sparkler on his ring finger because it came with a Super Bowl win over the Pittsburgh Steelers 31-25 in Super Bowl XLV. The Steelers are Super Bowl famous having played in eight of those prized events, winning six, including four in six years from 1975 to 1980.

Redding has helped set up weight training programs for NASCAR and Kodak and was inducted into the U.S.A. Weightlifter Hall of Fame in 2007.

Redding says there was big money in pro football for people like him who work with the peripheral programs of the game such as strength training. They also get bonus money coming for the playoffs and the Super Bowl. In 2011, Redding got a full share of the Super Bowl residuals of \$165,000.

Ah, Dave, we should have talked before I agreed to buy your lunch.

Redding is happy today in his retirement living in Cornville, Arizona with his significant other, Denise Miller, a flight attendant based in Phoenix.

I should have thought to ask Dave if he plans to sit in a tree house out here on the Platte River in his retirement. And I'd like to ask that Coleman stove a few questions.



# HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

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Cecilia Hall makes an attack against Michigan earlier this season.



# Huskers striving to **HIT .300** over the course of the season

Story by Bob Hamar • Photos by Mitch Otto

The Nebraska offensive attack hasn't been quite what coach John Cook has wanted this season.

Heading into the final week of October the Huskers were hitting .258 as a team this year. That wasn't quite up to where Cook would like to see it.

"Over the course of the season we'd like to hit .300," Cook said. "If you look at Final Four teams, teams that are winning national championships, they're hitting close to .300 and their opponents are below .200 for the season. That's where we got to get to."

Cook's 2006 national championship team hit .296 while holding opponents to .144. The 2000 national championship team hit .312 with opponents hitting just .121.

The 2007 team, one Cook has said may have been his most talented ever, hit a robust .327 and held opponents to .153 but lost to California in a regional final. The 2005 team that reached the national championship match before losing to Washington hit .322 compared to .126 for its opponents.

The opponent hitting percentage this year stands at .167, so it was right on course, but Cook is hoping the Huskers can crank up the offensive percentage in the closing weeks. Opponents have to be given some credit for their lower hitting percentage.

"We just played seven out of 10 ranked teams so we're not going to be at .300," said. "When you're playing Penn State, Wisconsin, Minnesota, you're not going to hit .300. But if we could hit .250 against those teams that would be really good, and we did it."

The Huskers ended October with back-to-back sweeps of Rutgers and Maryland, two of the bottom teams in the Big Ten. The Huskers hit .315 against Rutgers and followed with a .412 performance against Maryland.

That improved hitting percentage came about because of a couple of factors. Cook said the Huskers played better, but the level of competition was a factor as well.

Cook would like to see the same balance the Huskers showed over that weekend.

"If you look at our stats against Rutgers, every hitter had 13 or 14 attacks," Cook said. "You always try to be a balanced team, but you want to kill balls behind the setter. If you can do that, it's huge. That's how Minnesota beat us. We have to do that."

Moving junior Kadie Rolfzen to the right side has also helped the offense produce that balance Cook wants. Rolfzen leads the team in kills (3.24 per set) and has the best hitting percentage of any of the outside hitters at .272.

"It just takes the pressure off our left sides to have to kill balls," Cook said. "Instead of two blockers going on our left sides, blockers have to think about going the other way, so it takes the pressure off of everybody. It's huge."

The other factor is just hitters making plays. The players' ability to take a bad set and turn it into a strong attack is a huge advantage for an offense.

The Huskers saw that against Minnesota when senior Daly Santana had 23 kills on 72 attacks for the Gophers.

"If you watch great hitters, that's when you find out they're good is on bad sets," Cook said. "Anybody can hit a good set. What can you do on a bad set? Can you find a way to get a kill or do you give them a free ball?"

That's exactly what Santana did against the Huskers.

"Santana got a lot of bad sets," Cook said. "She had 72 sets and a lot of them were bad sets, but I don't think that setter ever thought she had a bad set because Santana did something with it."

## 2015 Schedule

### Nebraska Invite at Devaney Center

Aug. 28 Tulsa	W, 3-0	(1-0)
Aug. 29 Grand Canyon	W, 3-0	(2-0)
Aug. 29 Pittsburgh	W, 3-1	(3-0)

### Vertical Challenge at Austin, Texas

Sept. 4 Texas	L, 3-2	(3-1)
Sept. 5 Oregon	W, 3-2	(4-1)

### Ameritas Challenge at Devaney Center

Sept. 11 UC Davis	W, 3-0	(5-1)
Sept. 12 USF	W, 3-0	(6-1)
Sept. 12 Georgia Tech	W, 3-0	(7-1)

Sept. 15 at Creighton	W, 3-0	(8-1)
Sept. 19 at Iowa State	W, 3-1	(9-1)
Sept. 23 at Iowa	W, 3-0	(10-1)
Sept. 26 Iowa	W, 3-0	(11-1)
Oct. 2 at Penn State	W, 3-2	(12-1)
Oct. 3 at Ohio State	L, 3-2	(12-2)
Oct. 7 Mich. State	W, 3-1	(13-2)
Oct. 10 Michigan	W, 3-1	(14-2)
Oct. 16 at Northwestern	W, 3-0	(15-2)
Oct. 17 at Illinois	W, 3-0	(16-2)
Oct. 23 Minnesota	L, 3-1	(16-3)
Oct. 24 Wisconsin	L, 3-1	(16-4)
Oct. 30 Rutgers	W, 3-0	(17-4)
Oct. 31 Maryland	W, 3-0	(18-4)
Nov. 4 at Purdue	W, 3-0	(19-4)
Nov. 7 at Indiana	W, 3-0	(20-4)
Nov. 11 at Mich. State	6 p.m.	
Nov. 14 at Maryland	6 p.m.	
Nov. 18 Indiana	7 p.m.	
Nov. 21 at Michigan	6:30 p.m.	
Nov. 25 Illinois	7 p.m.	
Nov. 28 Penn State	7 p.m.	
Dec. 4-5 NCAA 1st, 2nd Rds TBD		
Dec. 11-12 NCAA Regionals - TBD		
Dec. 17 NCAA Semis at Omaha		
Dec. 19 NCAA Final at Omaha		





# NEBRASKA VOLLEYBALL NOTEBOOK

Compiled by Bob Hamar • Photo by Mitch Otto

## FOECKE STAYS AGGRESSIVE

Freshman Mikaela Foecke still has a ways to go as a volleyball player, but Nebraska coach John Cook likes her aggressiveness.

"Foecke is trying to break fingers," Cook said.

That is actually a good thing. Cook wants his outside hitters to swing hard. That's something he hasn't always seen this season. It was particularly evident in back-to-back home losses to Minnesota and Wisconsin in October.

"It drives me crazy," Cook said the following week. "I don't know why we're doing it. They're not going to do it this week in practice or there are going to be some major consequences."

The outsides improved in that sense, although it was never an issue with Foecke. The true freshman was second on the team behind Kadie Rolfzen in kills per set (2.96) and was hitting .269 heading into November.

But Foecke has had her ups and downs like most freshmen. She had 15 kills in that loss to Wisconsin, but also committed nine errors and hit just .125.

"She was aggressive against Wisconsin which is good," Cook said. "She just has to learn. She can't hit the same shot all the time. That's what we'll try to teach her. But she'll continue to have breakthroughs where she flattens out and then goes up and has some good matches.

"But she has a great mindset. I love the way she competes."

## MENTAL MINDSET

Cook hopes his team has the right mental lookout as it heads into the final month of the season. There may have been a lapse here or there, but for the most part Cook has been pleased with the progress of his team.

The important thing is to stay focused on the match at hand.

"It's all a mental mindset and how they approach things every day and how they come into practice and how they ap-

proach these matches and prepare," Cook said. "Not look too far ahead and prepare. We have four weeks left. We're still playing for a lot. These matches are huge. We still have a lot to play for and we have to continue to get better."

The prize at the end remains the same: A trip to the Final

Four in Omaha. Cook said the players have to prove they want it down the stretch.

"They really want to go to Omaha? They really want to be a great team?" Cook said. "This is when you start finding out. It was easy a month ago."

## SERVING COMPETITION

Cook set up a serving competition in October to decide who was going to serve one rotation. Amber Rolfzen, Sydney Townsend (pictured left) and Brooke Smith were all candidates to serve when Rolfzen rotated from the front to the back row.

"Brooke started off there and did really well and got hurt," Cook said. "Sydney came in and we thought OK, we're going to find out who wants to do this."

The candidates would compete and Cook would decide in practice who would serve in the next match. An ace was worth four points, a serve that was passed but the setter couldn't set was three points, a serve that resulted in an OK pass but not good enough for the setter to set the middle was two points.

If the serve was passed so the setter could set anyone she wanted it was one point and a service error was zero points.

Take the total points, divide by the number of serves and that gives a serving efficiency. That's the same rating system Cook uses to judge servers during matches.

Cook said good serving can frustrate opponents.

"If you have a hard time passing, that really disrupts you," Cook said. "The second thing is hitters can't control the ball. If the floor defense can pick it up, that's another thing that really frustrates teams."





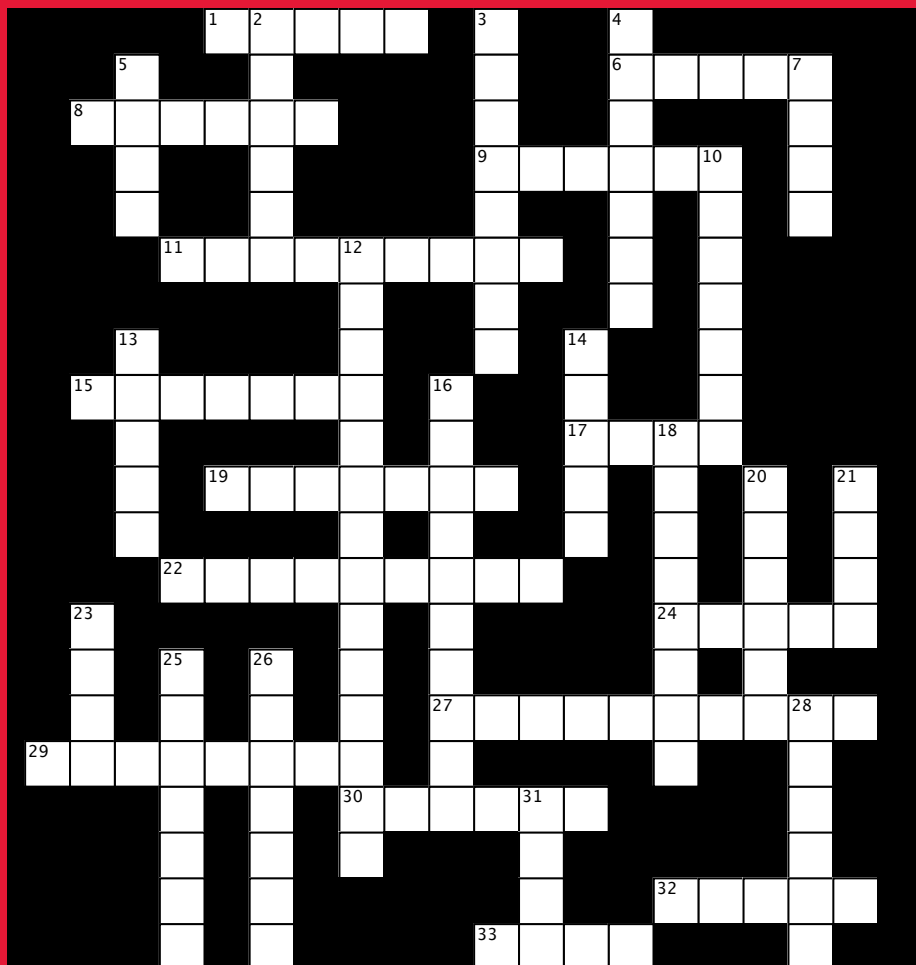
# HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED CROSSWORD PUZZLE

## ACROSS

1. Had first career touchdown reception vs. Purdue
6. Ex-Husker defensive lineman now with Houston Texans
8. NU's all-time leading rusher
9. Wears No. 88 (defense)
11. Quarterbacks coach
15. 1995 Johnny United Golden Arm Award winner
17. NU's division in Big Ten Conference
19. Rutgers' former conference
22. Rutgers' bowl game after 2014 season
24. Rutgers head coach
27. Leading receiver vs. Purdue
29. Wears No. 35 (offense)
30. Ex-Husker quarterback now assistant with Miami Dolphins
32. Wore retired No. 60
33. No. of Ryker Fyfe touchdown passes vs. Purdue

## DOWN

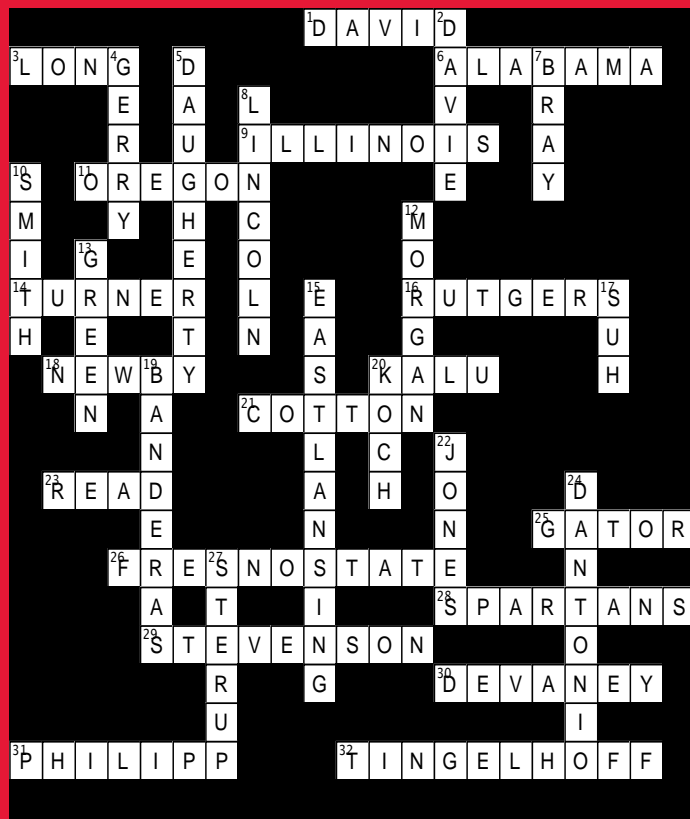
2. 2017 non-conference opponent
3. Leading tackler vs. Purdue
4. Rutgers school color
5. No. of Ryker Fyfe interceptions vs. Purdue
7. Blocked extra-point kick vs. Purdue
10. Defensive backs coach
12. Rutgers nickname
13. Wore retired No. 64
14. Leading rusher vs. Purdue
16. Rutgers' campus location
18. Ex-Husker defensive back now with Tennessee Titans
20. 2000 Rimington Award winner
21. NU's all-time leading tackler
23. Nov. 27 opponent
25. 2016 non-conference opponent
26. 2015 NFL Hall of Fame inductee
28. Had 42-yard kickoff return vs. Purdue
31. Frank Solich's current school



## NOVEMBER 14 PUZZLE



## OCTOBER 31 SOLUTION



## NOVEMBER 7 SOLUTION



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